

BEAVER/KONSTRUKTA At Skegex last July some parts and the remnants of a manual were on sale and were first taken for BEAVER, based on the illustration of the parts in MCS. There was no obvious name on the pages of the manual but in the instructions for one of the models a 'Konstrukta 12 volt electric motor' is mentioned. In MCS the range and description of KONSTRUKTA parts is very similar but not identical to that for BEAVER, but all the parts seen could certainly have been KONSTRUKTA. The TRACTION ENGINE illustrated under BEAVER in MCS is included in the 'Skegex' manual but the title is STEAM TRACTION ENGINE. So it looks as if BEAVER and KONSTRUKTA were closely related in some way. Neither of them turn up very frequently and KONSTRUKTA sets in particular are very rarely seen.

The parts in question look exactly as would be expected from the MCS BEAVER entry, the Strips and Angle Girders are painted a medium/dark green, the Flanged Plates, Trunnions and Bush Wheel a medium red, the 1½" dia balloon type Road Wheel is medium blue, the 3" Pulley glossy black, and the 1" pulleys are brass plated steel. Bosses are of brass, single tapped 5/32 BSW, 3/8" dia for the 1" and ½" dia for the 3" Pulley. The Gear Wheel has been pressed from rather thin material and has 57 teeth, not the 53 shown for both BEAVER and KONSTRUKTA in the MCS lists. (The Pinion looks quite MECCANO like at a glance and has 19 teeth)

In a BEAVER Set No 1 (details from Alf Reeve and Geoff Wright) the design of the parts appears identical but the colours are different. The Road Wheels are glossy black, the red parts are slightly darker and the green ones slightly lighter. The colours of the parts in Frank Beadle's No 1 KONSTRUKTA set are very similar to those of the parts which were on offer.

CONTENTS OF MÄRKLIN 'm' SETS Georges Spinnier has sent a copy of the Set Contents of these sets taken from a manual, and to save space I have typed the details, and also added MECCANO style names against the PNs. The m sets do not bear any marked resemblance to the previous A,B,C,E series (see OSN 5, p100); they are considerably larger than Sets A,B,C (in round numbers the m30 contains 100% more parts than the A, and the m60, 50% more than the C), but the m60 is smaller than the C with its add-on E. The number of different parts used to make up the new sets is about the same as before, but it is a rather different selection with no couplings or fine toothed gears. The Collar #11060 is illustrated in the list - it looks as if it is made of plastic with one side deepened to take the grub screw. The Collar was originally #11059, of conventional shape and made of brass; in the A-C list PN 11060 was used but the illustration was of the old style part.

PN	Description	Set: m30	m50	m60	PN	Description	Set: m30	m50	m60	PN	Description	Set: m30	m50	m60
10000	Fishplate	8	8	8	10205	" 50mm	3	3	3	11419	" " 5x9 h	-	-	2
10001	Double Bracket, ½"	4	4	4	10207	" 70mm	2	2	2	11421	" " 5x11 h	2	4	9
10002	Angle Bracket, ½"	16	16	16	10209	" 90mm	-	2	2	11501	Cord, 4m	1	1	1
10003	Strip, 3 hole	3	3	3	10210	" 101mm	2	2	2	11515	Spring Cord, 150mm	-	1	1
10004	" 4 "	6	6	6	10211	" 115mm	2	3	3	11605	Curved Strip, 5 h	2	2	4
10005	" 5 "	8	8	8	10213	" 130mm	1	1	2	11631	Flat Trunnion	2	2	2
10006	" 6 "	-	2	4	10215	" 150mm	-	-	2	11632	Trunnion	2	2	2
10007	" 7 "	10	10	10	10220	" 200mm	-	-	1	11713	Hook	1	1	1
10009	" 9 "	6	6	6	10312	Pulley, n/b, 12mm	1	1	1	11717	Crank Handle	2	2	2
10011	" 11 "	10	12	12	10325	" 25mm	5	5	5	11727	Washer	5	10	10
10017	" 17 "	-	-	4	10336	Flgd Pulley, 36-m	-	-	6	11728	Spacer, 3mm	3	4	4
10025	" 25 "	2	4	8	10350	Pulley, 50mm	-	2	2	11800	Parts Box	1	1	1
10040	Rev Ang Brkt, ½"	1	2	2	10365	Flgd Wheel, 65mm	1	2	2	12400	Plastic Axle Clip	16	16	16
10042	" " " 1"	-	1	1	10914	Universal Gear, 14t	2	2	2	14006	Allen Key	1	1	1
10044	Dble Brkt, 3x1x3 h	1	1	1	10918	Gear Ring, 18t	-	-	1	14007	Spanner	2	2	2
10045	Dble Bent Strip	-	-	1	10940	" " 40t	-	-	1	14010	Nut	90	120	190
10047	" " " 3h ctr	-	-	2	11036	Bush Wheel, 36mm	1	1	1	14025	Tyre for 10325,10914	5	5	5
10055	Strip 5h, oval end h	2	2	2	11060	Collar	3	5	5	14036	" " 10336	-	-	6
10059	Strip 9hx½" pitch	-	2	2	11138	Seat	-	1	1	14050	" " 10350	-	2	2
10065	DAS, 1x3x1 holes	4	4	5	11148	Steering Wheel, 36mm	-	1	1	14200	Allen Hd Screwdriver	1	1	1
10067	DAS, 1x5x1 holes	7	7	7	11320	Flgd Plate, 5x11 h	1	1	1	14202	Bolt, 8.5mm	60	90	160
10069	DAS, 1x7x1 holes	-	-	1	11340	" Sector Plate	-	2	2	14203	" 12mm	26	30	30
10105	Ang Girder, 5 hole	-	-	2	11352	Perf Plate, 5x9 h	-	-	1	14204	" 25mm	2	3	3
10111	" " 11 "	-	-	4	11405	Flex Plate, 3x5 h	3	3	4	14223	Grub Screw	14	20	20
10125	" " 25 "	-	-	4	11415	" " 5x5 h	2	4	4					
10203	Axle, 30mm	3	3	3	11417	" " 5x7 h	2	2	2					

NOTE: Sets E30 and E50 convert m30 into m50, and m50 into m60; they contain exactly the parts needed except that there is a #11800 in each conversion set.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. From Richard Symonds. • An ad for a 6" dial calliper gauge that he bought recently for \$19. Made in China, but well made, he recommends such an instrument as being ideal for OS/handyman purposes.

• A photo of a **LYNNCRAFT** Set that's similar but not identical to the one described in 12/309. The outside of the lid looks identical, though I can't quite read if the Model No. is '146'. It's probably an earlier Set because there are no Tyres in it; otherwise the contents look the same, with a generally similar layout, except that all 5 Pulleys are between the Trunnions, there are 2 extra Pulleys (with hidden, or no, bosses), each holding down 3 of the Triangular Plates, no Span'drivers are visible, and in dark areas of the photo on either side of the Large Flanged Plate, there looks to be an extra Bush Wheel on the left, and another part, perhaps a Pulley or a third Bush Wheel on the right. There's no centre hole in any of the Strips.

2. From Don Redmond. • On the **ERECTOR No.100 Set** (from 11/298 & 15/ 411), the bore of the Wheel is just over 3.25mm, & the Axle is 2.90mm Ø. See *Greenberg* 2, p139, for a photo of the Set; it's said there that it was marketed only in 1957, & that the parts were shrink wrapped onto a yellow backing board.

• **JE-IL/JEP** (see 13/344) were still going strong last summer. Their address is Jeil Science Material Enterprises, Kuroku, Kurodong 546-2, Seoul (Buyoung Building, 3rd floor), and the phone numbers are the 858 ones in OSN 13. The firm does not market its products outside South Korea. The sets 1-3 and 5 & 6 continue but there's doubt about the Army outfit (see 6/111). The current manuals are for Sets 1; 2 including 1; 3 including 1 & 2; 5; & 6). The #3 is the same as the one described in OSN 13 with very minor changes to the text, and the models in #5 & 6 are probably the same.

• On **TEMSI** hole spacing, see 9/225, Charles Shrubsole has found that the it is erratic rather than being uniformly a little over ½". Don checked four 25h Strips from one set for himself and found some pairs of holes at exactly ½" while others were up to 1.5mm out. But the erratic spacing was identical between all the Strips, and the end holes were all 3mm over 12" apart. [The 6 in a set from the 1950s or 1960s are all no more than 1½mm out over the 25 holes and the holes seem to be very nearly uniformly spaced; the 4 A/Gs in the set are very similar.]

• **STRUCTOMODE** A/Gs are black, like **MÄRKLIN** used to be, but are easy to recognise because they are copper plated under the chemical blackening.

• The **MASTER BUILDER** Motor shown in 18/495 looks just like the 1914 **ERECTOR** P-51 Motor on p52 of *Greenberg* 1. It was only listed for the one year, and was fitted with strip brushes. Are they identical? And who made them? In 1915 Gilbert changed to the P-58 which had carbon brushes, slightly different frames with 4 terminals, & bracket feet. Said feet had a round hole in each, later slotted right out to the edge of the foot.

• The word in the **KONSTRUKTOR [10]** 'flying goose' logo (18/498) is Moskva (Moscow) in script.

• **Buffing** dull dark grey (tin plated) **STRUCTO** parts using a cloth buffing wheel impregnated with tripoli (rottenstone) gave a bright, smooth shine. Tin oxide is tough.

• Some 5h Strips with very large end radii, of about 2", cut close to the end holes, have been identified, thanks to Kendrick Bisset, as **MASTER BUILDER**. [As far as I know most M B Strips have well rounded ends, see 16/450.]

• **MESO** in the **SONNEBERGER** logo (see 18/502), no doubt comes (in similar fashion to other German abbreviations) from **MEtallwarenfabrik SOnneberg**.

3. From David Hobson. • An unused **MECANIKIT No.0**, still strung in its box, is exactly the same as the one described in 10/250, and MCS, except that all the Strips bar 3x 3h are aluminium, and there are 12 N&B. 8 of the Nuts

are square and 4 hexagonal, both the same across flats. The Axle is aluminium, and the Balloon Wheels have a gold sheen, and appear to have been lacquered. No Screwdriver was found in the Set.

• From the Nov. 1930 *The Toy Trader*. **Sonneberg** (see 18/502) has been known for toys for the last 200 years and has 'the unique **German Toy Museum**'.

• Something on the history of **VOGUE** (ref. 17/464) appeared in the Sept. 1951 *The Toy Trader & Exporter*. The Vogue Manufacturing Co. of Egerton Road, Melton Mowbray was established some 40 years before and produced metal trimmings for shoes. It was bought by A.N.Pallett in 1947 and new machinery for making toys and fancy goods was gradually installed, including plastic moulding equipment. A subsidiary, Vogue Playthings Ltd. was formed in 1947 to market the toys, and in 1949 Thermold Ltd., who made toilet goods and advertising novelties, was acquired. During 1948/49 the original factory was enlarged and another factory at Oakham, 10 miles away, was taken to make the constructional sets. In 1950 A.E.Pallett, father of A.N., and managing director of Casceloid Ltd. from 1919 to 1943, joined the firm and became responsible for admin and sales. In that year additional premises were obtained in Melton for packing and dispatch, and the original factory was modernised. The **VOGUE** pressings were then made there and taken to Oakham for finishing and packing. A blurry photo in an earlier (Feb. 1951) issue showed 3 sets which look like those shown in the Manuals, and behind them is a largish model that might be a Big Wheel.

• An ad from the manufacturers' agent Val Green, in the Jan. 1952 *The Toy Trader & Exporter*, mentions 'The latest & greatest' **KONSTRUKTA** Steel Constructional Sets'. The parts in this system, and their similarity to **BEAVER**, were discussed in 6/129, & this is the first definite date for either. Incidentally **BEAVER** was made by a firm, Rutland Plastics Ltd., in Oakham, where **VOGUE** sets were produced.

• **DAN DARE** Sets 1 & 2 (see 14/366) were announced in an ad by Bartram, the manufacturer, in *The Toy Trader & Exporter* for July 1953, and a similar ad with illustrations of the Sets appeared in the August issue.

• An article on **CONSTRUMENTS** in the Dec. 1932 *Toy Trader* says that the sets have only been on the market for a week or two. So that confirms the date inferred in 5/79. The 20, Plus, & 100 Sets are mentioned and the 20 is said allow instruments worth £20 to be made, or at least £100 for the No.100 Outfit. It is also stated that the interchangeable metal parts were made by The British Thomson Houston Co. Ltd.

• The 1937 **JUNEERO** box lid illustrated in 9/216 was also shown in *The Toy Trader* for Feb 1936, in an ad for cartons, and in a later 1936 Waddy ad.

• **ARKIRECTO** (2/19) was patented in 1933. Mentioned was made of it in the Feb 1934 *Games & Toys*, and in March an ad from the manufacturers, Arkirecto Ltd., Carlton House, Regent Street, London, S.W.1, offered sets from 2/6 to £2-2-0. In October the price range was 2/6 to 52/6 and ads continued until Feb 1935. The next ad, with the same prices, was in June from Waddy Productions, Astor House, Aldwych, London, and they had another ad in September. Finally in June, July & August 1936, E.M.Napier Ltd., Exmouth House, 3 Pine Street, Farringdon Road, London announced 'We have procured the entire stock of **ARKIRECTO** and can offer complete outfits or parts at greatly reduced prices'. (From a Nov 1937 Napier ad: 'Turn that dead stock into £-s-d - London's Largest Job Stock Buyer - pays spot cash for surplus stock.')

• The **MEX** No.2 Set (see 16/452) was advertised by W.H.Cornelius in the Nov 1933 *The Toy Trader*, price 1/-. So unless it had a very short life it's strange that it wasn't mentioned in the later *Games & Toys* ads.

• In 18/523 Don Redmond asked about a yellow plastic Wheel with Tyre marked **BILDIT**. It probably came from the simple plastic **BILDIT** system which was based on a special

More on BEAVER & KONSTRUKTA Some brief notes on parts thought to be KONSTRUKTA were given in 6/129 and an ad from 1952 was noted in 19/554. The main new items to hand are the still strung KONSTRUKTA No.1 set mentioned in OSN 6; a BEAVER No.1 like the one in OSN 6, again still strung, courtesy David Hobson; and a largely complete BEAVER No.2, kindly lent by Malcolm Hanson.

HISTORY As mentioned in 6/129, BEAVER seems to be related to KONSTRUKTA. A Parts List for KONSTRUKTA, not known before, is included in the manual for the No.1 Outfit (the page in question is on the OSNL web site) and it contains 36 parts, 10 of which have an 'A' suffix. There are 2 Illustrated Parts Lists in MCS for BEAVER. One has 34 parts, all, with a few minor differences, from the KONSTRUKTA range, and numbered 1-34; the other has 29 parts, 1-29, with 4 new parts and among those dropped are the Gears.

There is nothing positive to say which system came first but from the above it seems most likely that BEAVER followed KONSTRUKTA with initially most of the latter's parts (I'll call it Phase 1), and then the range was simplified & revised (Phase 2). Other indications of this order are the colour cover of the BEAVER manual which doesn't really look pre-1952, and the BEAVER A/B which, unlike its KONSTRUKTA counterpart, has a slotted hole. No Phase 1 set is known but the No.4 BEAVER models in MCS would need parts not in Phase 2.

All that is known of the KONSTRUKTA set structure is the No.1 set and, from the OSN 6 manual, a No.4. The only references to a BEAVER Phase 1 set are the No.4 models in MCS. As they need parts not in Phase 2, the No.4 was probably quite similar to the KONSTRUKTA No.4. The present Nos.1 & 2 BEAVER sets have the same '29 part' manual and are thus considered Phase 2. A No.4 outfit is mentioned in said manual but the models in it are for Sets 1-3 only, and inventories are given for Sets 0-3. A No.3 set, probably from Phase 2, has been reported.

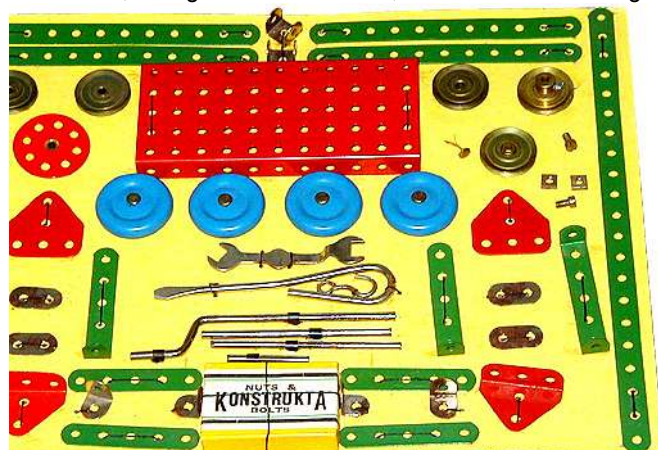
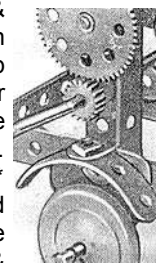
THE PARTS The PN's of the 36 parts in KONSTRUKTA are 1,2,4-27, plus 10 with suffix 'A'. #3 is not used but should logically have been a 3h Strip. As already mentioned, there are 34 parts in Phase 1 BEAVER and they have counterparts in KONSTRUKTA, but are now numbered 1-34, and in a different order. Not included are the Wheel Disc & the Hank of Cord. Some of the BEAVER parts show changes - the A/B, and the Flat Bracket which replaces the 2h Strip, both have a slotted hole; the shape of the wire Screwdriver is changed; & a Spandriver replaces the Spanner. The 29 BEAVER Phase 2 parts have PN's 1-29 with many changes to the Phase 1 numbering. The new parts are a Flanged Sector Plate, a 5*5h Perforated Plate, a Collar, and a Pulley with Tyre. Those dropped are the 5h Formed Strip, the Flat & Double Brackets, the 1" Loose & 3" Pulleys, the Gear & Pinion, the Coupling, and the Screwdriver.

All the parts are listed below, KONSTRUKTA first and then the new/changed BEAVER ones. The details have come from the Sets already mentioned, the OSN 6 'KONSTRUKTA' lot, & a mixed lot, thought to be BEAVER, that included 2 Flanged

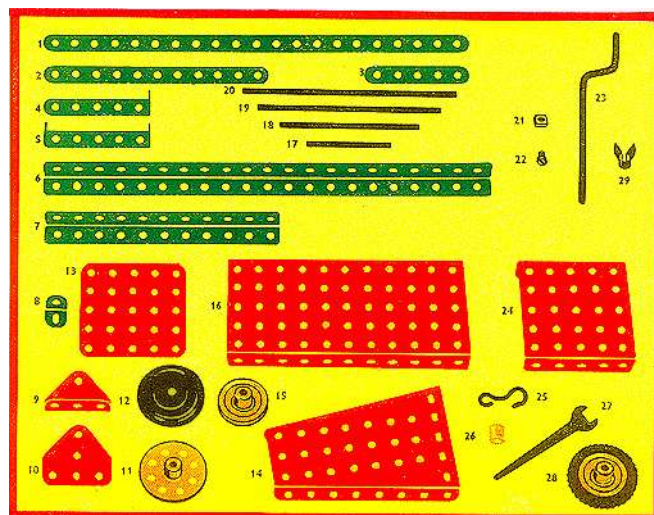
Sector Plates. Many of the parts can be seen in the photo of the KONSTRUKTA box in the last column, the BEAVER Phase 2 Illustrated Parts below, & the models shown.

The KONSTRUKTA Parts

- **Holes.** 12.7mm pitch, 4.1mm Ø, with a few up to 4.2mm.
- **Bosses.** Brass, 4.1mm bore, 3/8" Ø except the 3" Pulley, s/t 5/32" BSW, with a narrow, shallow ring of peening.
- **Quality.** The parts are well made and nicely finished but one side of the bore in the boss of the Road Wheels is too small to admit the Axles.
- **Colours.** Compared with MECCANO colours the green parts match the 1950s shade; the red are slightly darker than the '60s colour. The Axles, Crank Handle, Hook, Tools, Brackets, & 2h Strip are nicked.
- **Strip parts.** 2.5, 11, 21h Strips; DAS; SAS; & a green 5h Formed Strip which can be seen in the snip from the Tower Wagon right (from the OSN 6 manual). The ends of the 2h are fully radiused; the others at .28" r, not quite.
- **A/Gs.** 11 & 21h. Green, 13 1/2" 13 1/2mm, with all round holes and rounded corners.
- **Brackets.** the A/B is made from the 2h Strip; the D/B is 14 1/4mm wide o/a.
- **Flat & Angle Trunnions.** At 1mm the metal is thinner than in other similar 5h ones sometimes found.
- **Flanged Plates.** The 5*5 & 5*11h both have small corner radii. One of several 5*5h in the OSN 6 lot is a distinctly darker red.
- **Pulleys.** 1". The same 28mm discs are used for the **Fast & Loose** versions - they are distinctive with the centre (about 13.5mm Ø) raised slightly. The vee is about 4mm wide and the Loose one has a 5/16" Ø boss, 1 1/2mm deep with a bevelled edge. The 3", painted gloss black, is shown right.
- **The slots are 17mm long, & the boss is 1/2" Ø.**
- **Bush Wheel.** The disc is steel, 1 1/2" Ø, painted red.
- **Balloon Road Wheel.** Blue, 38mm Ø & 9mm wide.
- **Gear & Pinion.** Adding to the description in OSN 6, both are brass & run well together at 2h centres.
- **Coupling 1".** The two examples seen in the OSN 6 parts are only 19mm long. Both are 3/8" Ø brass but one is nickel plated. Both have two s/t holes at 3/8" centres but the tapping holes in the nickel one go right through.
- **Axles.** 1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 4 1/2" long, 4.07mm Ø with sheared ends, slightly bevelled.
- **Crank Handle.** 5.0" long o/a with a 3.6" shank & a .9" handle offset .7"; it is 4.03mm Ø with square sheared ends.
- **N&B.** plain steel, 5/32" BSW (but 3 BA also listed), with a square Nut, 8.1mm A/F & 2 1/2mm thick, & CH Bolt, 6.0mm Ø & 6 1/2mm u/h.
- **Spring Clip.** Just like MECCANO.
- **Wire Hook.** 2.4mm wire, 29 1/2mm long o/a.
- **Screwdriver.** 4mm wire, 116mm long o/a.
- **Spanner.** 76mm long o/a with no centre piercing.
- **Not seen:** the 8h Wheel Disc, & Hank of Cord.
- **Motor.** In the OSN 6 manual it is at 'A' in the Dynamo model shown later, and is called the "Konstrukta" 12 volt electric motor.



OSN 32/969



BEAVER: S1; KONSTRUKTA: S1

the back of the manual, but slightly rearranged. • **Holes.** B2. 4.3mm with a few down to 4.2mm. • **Bosses.** B2. Bores 4.2-4.3mm. The Bush Wheel boss is $\frac{5}{16}$ " Ø, d/t, & only about $\frac{5}{16}$ " long. • **Colours.** B2. the red is the same but the green is very slightly darker. • **Brackets.** B2 (& B1 probably). The A/B has one 7mm slotted hole, & is probably made from the (unseen) **Flat Bracket.** • **Flanged Sector Plate.** It has straight ends, fully radiused corners, and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm slotted holes in the flanges. • **5*5h Perforated Plate.** Red with fully radiused corners. • **Pulleys.** B2. the centre is less raised and about 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm Ø. • **Pulley with Tyre.** Not seen but probably the standard 1" Pulley. • **Bush Wheel.** B2. As before but the disc is brassed steel, and the boss $\frac{5}{16}$ " Ø, as already described. • **Balloon Road Wheel.** B2. gloss black. **Collar.** $\frac{5}{16}$ " Ø & $\frac{5}{16}$ " long, d/t. • **Axles.** B2. Square sheared ends: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, 4.02mm Ø, in Set 1; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 4.09mm Ø in Set 2. • **Crank Handle.** B2. 4.06mm Ø. • **Wire Hook.** B2. 1.6mm wire, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long in Set 1; 1.8mm wire in Set 2. •



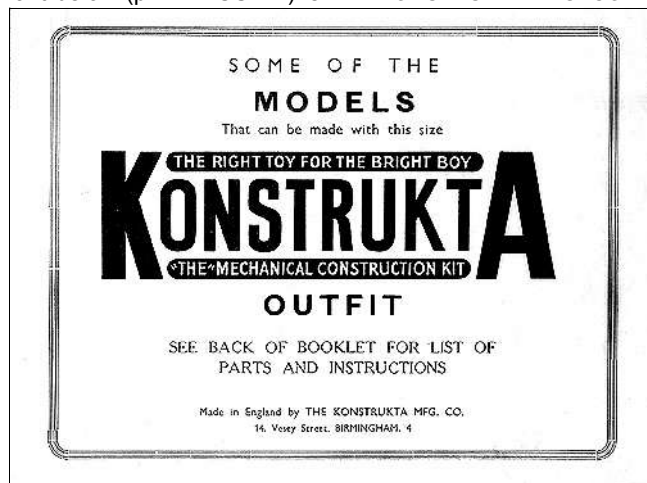
Screwdriver. B1. Its manual illustration is shown to the right. • **Spandriver.** B2. 74mm long with a 4.2mm wide tip. • **N&B.** B2: brassed steel, $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW (but possibly 4 BA in Set 2), with a square Nut, 7.9mm A/F & 2mm thick, and RH Bolt, 7.1mm Ø & 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm u/h.

The KONSTRUKTA No.1 SET The box is dark red, 11*14 $\frac{1}{4}$ * $\frac{3}{4}$ ", with a label, right, 9*6 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". The parts on their card have already been shown (there is symmetry left & right apart from the Bush Wheel & Loose Pulley). Except for the N&B in the little box, & the bossed parts which push into holes in the card, the parts are attached by either black Cord (to be kept & used in the models), split paper clips, or, for the Axles, the Spring Clips from the Set.



The **contents** of the set are: 2,4,4,4 of 21,11,5,2h Strips; 2 SAS; 2 DAS; a 5*11h Flanged Plate; 4 A/Bs; 2 D/Bs; 2 Trunnions, 2 Flat Trunnions; 4x 1" Pulleys; a 1" Loose Pulley; a Bush Wheel; 4 Road Wheels, 1,2 of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Axles; a Crank Handle; a Hook; 5 Spring Clips; 18 N&B; a Screwdriver; & a Spanner.

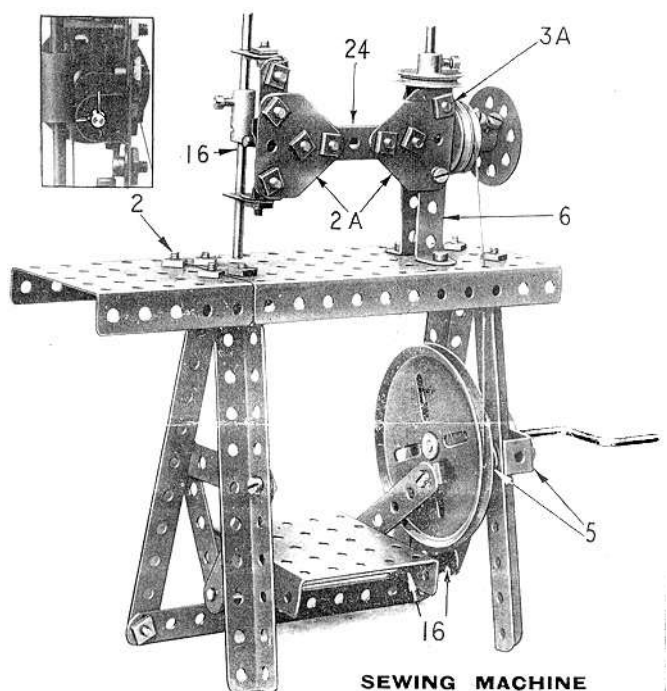
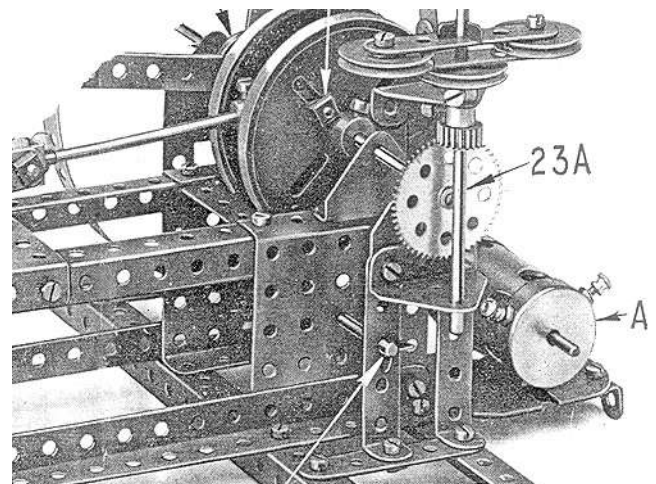
The **manual** is a single sheet folded to give 4 landscape sides 270*202mm, all printed in B&W. The address on the front below (p1 in MCS/NZ) is THE KONSTRUKTA MFG. CO. 14,



Vesey Street, BIRMINGHAM, 4. On the back (MCS p3) are 8 numbered paragraphs of elementary instructions, and a list of the 36 parts in the system, 24 of which are in the No.1. Inside

are 5 models from SMALL POWER PRESS to EXCAVATOR, with a photo and parts list for each. One of the pages is shown in MCS and includes the best model, the SMALL POWER PRESS. On the other page is a reasonable CRANE WITH (Cord around a Pulley) BRAKE. No Set No. is given anywhere but all the N&B in the Outfit are used in several of the models so presumably they were intended for the No.1. Strangely though the Road Wheels are not used at all, even for a Tip Truck (Lorry) - 1" Pulleys are used instead, so perhaps the Road Wheel was not in the system when the models were built.

The OSN 6 KONSTRUKTA MANUAL The size of the 8 photocopied, unnumbered pages to hand is 268*192mm landscape, and there is a model on each, with a Parts List & brief constructional notes. In alphabetical order they are: LIFTING BRIDGE, OVERHEAD GANTRY CRANE (the No.4 BEAVER model in MCS), PEDESTAL DRILLING MACHINE, SEWING MACHINE, STEAM TRACTION ENGINE (the other No.4 BEAVER model in MCS), SWIVELLING GANTRY CRANE, and TOWER WAGON. Also DYNAMO (the first part of the name has been torn away but it's a steam engine driving a 'dynamo' (the electric motor driving the model)). Part of this model is shown below 85% f/s, with underneath, at 60% f/s, the Sewing Machine (the Inset isn't very clear but shows the Coupling being flipped up by a Spring Clip on the horizontal shaft). All the models are simple but I think quite attractive. Most need 30 to 40 N&B, but two require 59. ---->>



PHASE 2 BEAVER SETS As already mentioned the Phase 2 manual contains inventories for Sets 0-3 and photos of the sets (p6 in MCS/FB). All are in packed in the same style with each main part individually attached to a card, or 2 cards for the 2-layer Nos.2 & 3.

The main parts in the Sets are as follows. **No.0:** a 5*5h Flgd Plate; 8 Strip parts; & 2 Road Whls. **No.1:** 2x 5*5h Perf Plates, 8 Strip parts, 2 A/Gs, a 1" Pulley, & 4 Road Whls. **No.2:** 2x 5*5h Perf Plates, 2x 5*5h Flgd Plates, 22 Strip parts, 6 A/Gs, a Bush Whl, 4x 1" Pulleys, & 4 Road Whls. **No.3:** 6x 5*5h Perf Plates, a 5*11h & 2x 5*5h Flgd Plates, 1 Flgd Sector Plate, 24 Strip parts, 6 A/Gs, a Bush Whl, 4x 1" Pulleys, & 4 Pulleys with Tyres. Sets 2 & 3 have 2 each of the 21h Strip & A/G. The 4 sets have 20, 30, 72, 84 N&B. The contents are progressive except that the No.0 has a 5*5h Flanged Plate and 2x SAS, parts which next appears in the No.2; the No.1 has 4x 5h Strips whereas the others have only 2; and the 4x Road Wheels in the No.2 are replaced by Pulleys with Tyres in the No.3. The odd thing is the paucity of 5h Strips in the larger sets – the No.3 has 12x 11h but still only the 2x 5h.

The Phase 2 BEAVER No.1 SET The **box** is a medium red and measures 8¼*13¼*7½". The lid, printed in colour, is just like the manual cover shown below except that the white



border is red and there is a red 'SET N° 1' label stuck over the Instruction Book panel. The main parts are tied, individually as with the KONSTRUKTA No.1, to a light yellow card with dark red cord, and the Spring Clips and N&B are in a 3½*1¼" red/white SUNDRY PARTS box glued to the card. The **contents** correspond to the inventory in MCS except that there are a few extra N&B.

The **manual** has 16 pages including covers, 217*143mm, and the cover is shown in the last column. The 18 models included are for Sets 1-3 but on C2 (p2) it is said that 'This Booklet has been prepared to illustrate the many and various models which can be constructed from the No.4 Beaver Set'. p2 also has the address, The Rutland Plastics Ltd., Oakham, Rutland, Telephone: Oakham 178, and p3 is all about the Beaver Club with a slip to tear off to join (and thereby tear in half one of the models on the back of the page). Also 'The Beaver Creed': 'To do some things better than they have ever been done before, to model for the love of it, to originate, to look ahead to the future, to be an example, and to learn to master circumstances'. Advice was offered to Club members and notification of model competitions to be held occasionally.

There are 6 models for each Set with a good photo and a parts list for each. For No.1: TRAILER on p4 to AEROPLANE on p6; No.2: BREAKDOWN LORRY on p7 to WINDMILL on p9; and No.3: TOWER BRIDGE WITH SHIP on p10 to DRILLING MACHINE on p14. None of the small models resemble any from the KONSTRUKTA No.1 manual, and really none for any of the sets are very wonderful – similar in some ways but arguably not as good as VOGUE, though one or two of the small ones are quite similar. The remaining pages remind one of VOGUE too, with photos of the sets and the contents of Sets 0-3 on C3, and the parts in colour on a vivid yellow ground, as shown already, on C4. But who copied who?

The Phase 2 BEAVER No.2 SET The box is like the No.1 but larger, it scales at about 9*29", & has the same size 'label' printed centrally on the red lid. The one remaining parts card is light yellow as in the No.1 & apart from a few missing items the contents are as would be expected. As already mentioned the manual with it is identical to the one in the No.1.

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BEAVER: S3; KONSTRUKTA: S3

Snippet – New System: ENTECH Not Eitech this time, ENTECH. A number of little 'one model' sets with this name have been sold on Ebay for a £1 or two each since late last year, mainly from the UK.

4 typical lids are shown here – along their tops is 'ENTECH mini's' [sic] followed by a category, either 'automobiles', 'bikes', 'trucks', or 'flying machine'. Under ENTECH is Engineering Technology, and under the category is the model name, both in tiny letters. At bottom right is an Item No.

The sets seen so far are listed below, asterisked if illustrated, with the name/probable Item No./number of parts.

Flying Machine: Airplane*, 1370 71; Helicopter, 1371, 60; Bi-Plane, 1372, 72.



So it looks as though there may be several more sets in the series.

Most of the main parts can be seen on the lids shown here, and with both normal and Narrow Strips in some models, the parts look like MECCANO, or one of its close copies. 'Meccano compatibility' was claimed in one Ebay ad. The other models in each category have the same colour scheme as those shown here.



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ENTECH: S1

This is the last page of OSN 32.