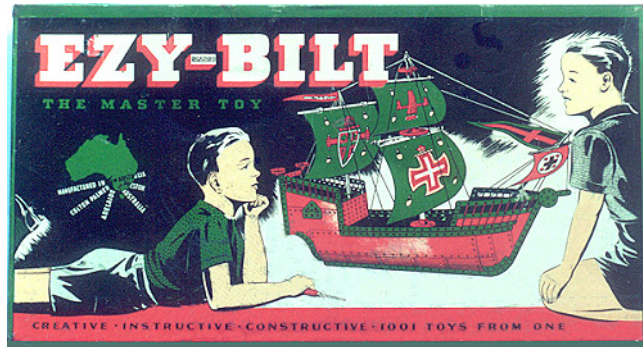


**An EZY-BILT No.7 Set** David Hobson kindly lent me this set, near complete, made by Colton, Palmer & Preston (7/144, 19/543, & 22/637 has more on the different manufacturers). It is likely to date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 1940s or the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 1950s.

The outfit is packed in a tinplate box 9\*17\*3", with a hinged lid. The sides are painted black with 'EZY-BILT', 'THE MASTER TOY', & '7', in red & white. The lid is shown below.



**The PARTS** At a glance they look just like 1950s MECCANO except that the red is lighter, nearly as light as the 1960s Liverpool shade. Closer inspection shows a few differences in the parts, and these are noted below if not already covered in the description of the 1940s parts in 22/638.

- **Holes** are 4.1 or 4.2mm Ø.
- The ends of **Strips** are fully rounded or very nearly so.
- The cutouts in the **Trunnions** are as in MECCANO.
- The **Brackets** are nickel except the green 2\*2h A/B.
- **Axles** have slightly rounded square ends and are nicked.
- The holes in the **Bush Wheel** are even larger at 4.8mm,

and the peening is a narrow ring (as it was for the OSN 22 part, not recessed as stated there).

- The recessed **peening** is used on the Road Wheel, and the 2 & 3" Pulleys.
- The **1" Fast Pulley** is very similar to the extra, suspect, OSN 22 part, except that it fits the Axles. No 1" Loose Pulleys were in the Set.
- The black **2" Tyre** has 'EZY-BILT REGD' & '6.00 - 16' moulded into both walls. The tread pattern is the same as that on the OLYMPIC one mentioned in 7/144. The **1" Tyre** is a black rubber ring of 6mm Ø section.
- The **½" Pinion** is just like M26 but the **50t Contrate** is as described in 18/523. It has the recessed type boss.
- The **Spring Cord** is 2.8mm o.d. and a dull light grey colour.
- The **Spanner** is generally like M34 but has wider openings to suit the E-B Nut, the waists are wider (6mm), the bends are at 90°, and the metal is thinner (1.15mm).
- **Flexible Plates** have no slotted holes, and only the 3\*11h has a centre hole.
- The **3\*5h Flanged Plate** is similar to M51 except that it is about 3mm longer & 2mm wider (65\*38½mm). The flanges are just a little wider. The top is fully perforated, not as shown in the Illustrated Parts.
- The **Cylinder** is painted red.
- The **Wheel Disc** is 1¼" Ø, like M217a, and is nicked.

**Parts missing** from the No.7 are: the ½ & 1" Loose Pulleys; the Stepped Bent Strip, Rod Connector, and Rod & Strip Connector; the 3" Screwed Rod, Threaded Pin, & Pivot Bolt; the Cord, Cord Anchoring Spring, Driving Bands, Hooks, Spring Clip, Washer & Screwdriver.

There was also no **manual** with the Set but the '6, 7 & 8' described in 19/544 would be the appropriate one.

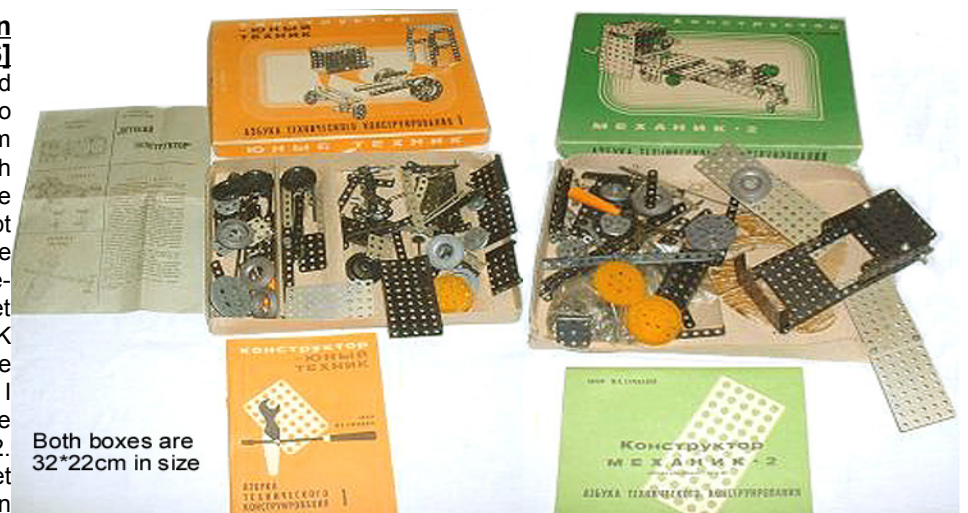
EZY-BILT: S1

OSN 28/837

### SNIPPET: A 'New' Russian System - KONSTRUKTOR [16]

The two sets shown right were sold together on Ebay, and were said to be from the 1950s. Apart from KONSTRUKTOR in Cyrillic on each lid & manual cover, little can be said about them for certain, except that after KONSTRUKTOR on the green set is MEKHAHIK 2. That reminded me that the only known set from KONSTRUKTOR-MEKHAHIK [2] (KON-MEK2 henceforth) is the No.3 (see 18/499 & 20/566) & I wondered if these sets might be the No.1 & No.2 sets from KON-MEK2. However although the 'orange' set does have what might be a '1' on the lid & manual cover, there is no sign of MEKHAHIK, and indeed the second word on the lid's edge, and after KONSTRUKTOR on the cover, looks like TEKHIK. Another difference, no logo of any sort can be seen.

The parts can't be seen very clearly but the Plates & Strips do look generally like KON-MEK2 except that many of the Plates are not in known sizes. The other main difference is the mix of black & 'grey' parts, whereas those in the No.3



were all black, apart from the greyish Pulley. A similar Pulley can be seen in these sets, and perhaps a (fatter) Tyre, but nothing that looks like the Flanged Disc with 3 long slots.

So, all in all, it's not very likely that these sets are the 'missing' KONSTRUKTOR-MEKHAHIK [2] outfits, and it seems best to consider them as a separate system.

KONSTRUKTOR [16]: S1

OSN 28/837