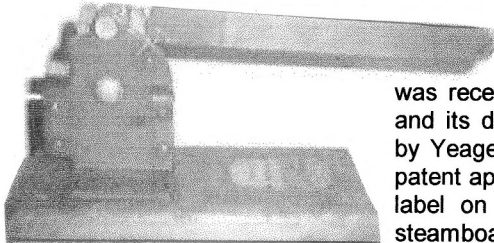
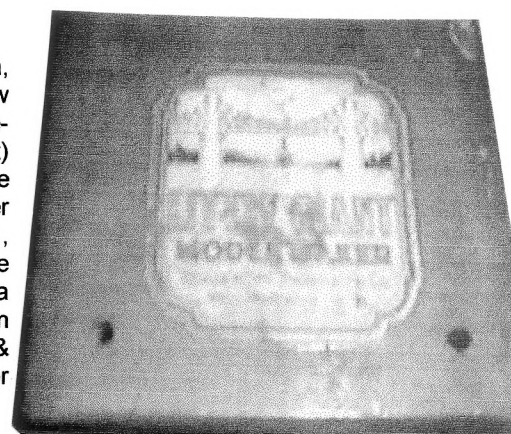


The LITTLE GIANT MODEL MAKER There were a number of UK, French, & German 'DIY' systems but up to now none from America have been recorded. The LITTLE GIANT Tool (left)



was recently auctioned at the ebay.com web site and its description ran, 'Little Giant Model Maker by Yeager "Hy" Products Co., Williamsville, N.Y., patent applied for.' That is probably what is on the label on the base (right), which also shows a steamboat passing under a bridge. The description

goes on, 'This is a neat little tool - it bends, cuts, shears and punches metal & wire for models, like an erector set but you make your own parts. No box or metal stock, just the tool.' The tool appeared to be painted red.



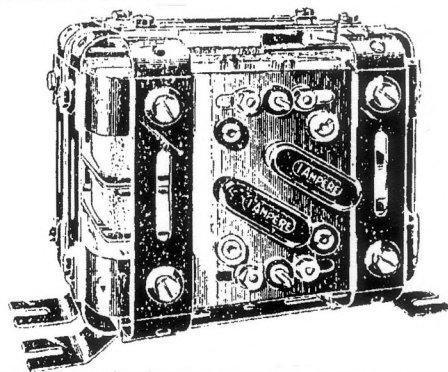
MULTIMOTORE This was the Italian version of the French MULTIMOTEUR (see 20/585). It dates from around 1947, and was mentioned in 15/426; now Jeannot Buteux has kindly sent a copy of a Leaflet which describes briefly a range of 12 Sets from 3 Groups. The name of the firm on the Leaflet is G.E.M.M.A., VIA BORGAZZI, 4, MONZA, and no doubt it was made under licence by them, or perhaps they imported the sets or parts. The logos of the two systems are very similar.

One side of the Leaflet has the Motor opposite, and an introduction to the system, with talk of the possibility to 'realizzare 100,000 costruzioni'.

The sets are listed on the back and in Gruppo I, "ELEMENTI", are P6 (5 different Bells with an illustration of the one in 20/585); P7 (Telegraph with a key & buzzer); P8 (2-way Telegraph with 2 keys & buzzers); P9 (Optical telegraph, as in OSN 20, with 2 units); P12 (4 Motors with square frames, probably similar to the one shown in 12/304); and P13 (4 Motors with square & circular frames, no doubt the



MULTIMOTORE



Set in OSN 12.). Each set is said to contain a manual.

Gruppo II, "APPARECCHI E MOTORI", has 3 sets. D1 is the basic outfit and a Motor quite similar to the 'P' ones is shown but with an octagonal frame and shaped pole pieces for the field coils. D2 & D3 are add-on sets, and the Motor opposite is made using all 3 sets. Each has a manual, called Album I, II, & III respectively.

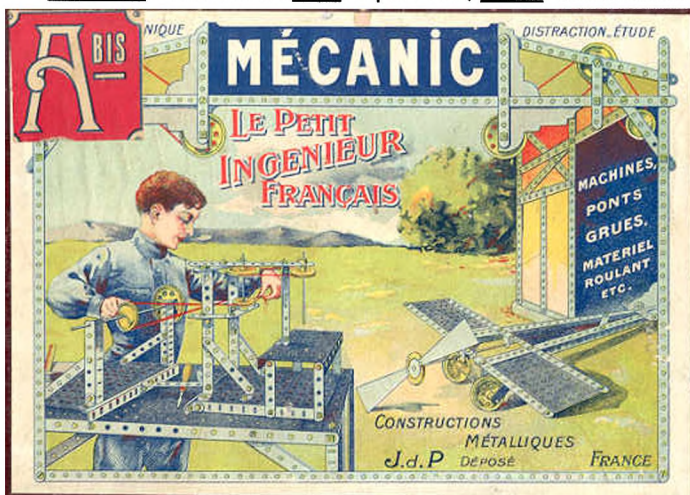
"TRASFORMATORI" is Gruppo III's title, and again there is a basic set T40B and 2 add-ons, T41B & T42B. 2 manuals are mentioned, Album I for the T40B, and Album II for the T42B. The models would no doubt work at low voltages and '4 e 14 Volt' are mentioned. Opposite the model illustrated in the Leaflet; '1 AMPERE' can be seen on the 2 diagonal elements on the front (fuses, connecting plugs?).

Jeannot also wrote that MULTIMOTEUR was still on sale in 1949 from a College of Electricity in Paris.

More on MÉCANIC David Hobson kindly lent me an 'A bis' conversion set that he had come by. It contained some parts, though not all would have belonged to the original set, and the notes below add to those in 12/314.

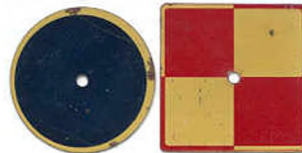
The box is a very dark red, 27½*15*2cm, and blue-grey inside divided by integral partitions. The label below is very attractive in full colour, & there's a similar one inside the lid, but without the 'A bis' so it's like the manual cover in MCS.

The Parts • **DATA** (in mm) **STRIP** (11-hole): •hole pitch/dia, 12.7/4.3; •width, 12.7; thickness, 1.2; •end radius, 6.7. **BOSS**: •o/d, 9.2; •i/d, 4.22; •brass; •single tapped. **THREAD**: 5/32" BSW. **NUT**: sq 6.4 A/F; **BOLT**: cheesehead

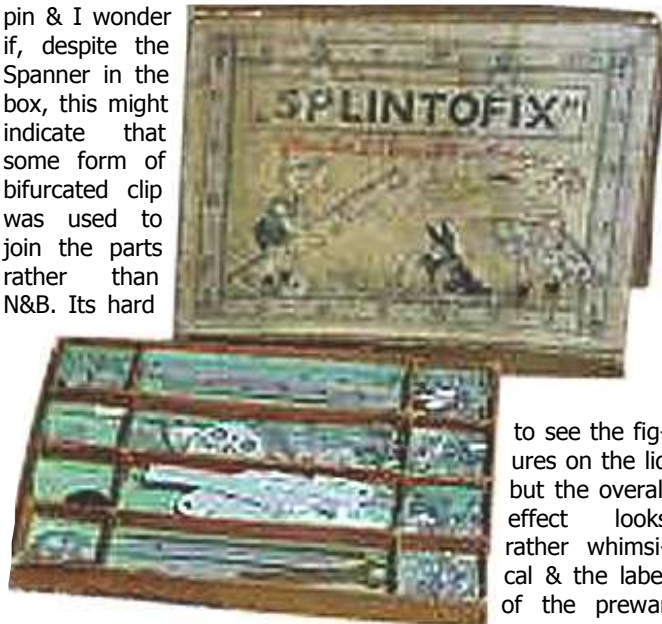


5.4Ø; both natural brass.

- The 4-7h Strips are .8mm thick, the 11 & 14h 1.2mm.
- The Flat Sector Plate is as shown in MCS with slightly curved ends. The holes are 4.2mm Ø, a little smaller than those in the other parts, & the slotted holes are 9mm long. It is painted a dullish black.
- The 36mm Pulley is 38mm o.d. and the discs are made of unpainted aluminium, with "MECANIC" and J. de P. stamped on the outer disc in a circle around the boss. The top of the boss is slightly radiused.
- The Signal Square & Disc (right) are both made from sheet brass. The side of the Square is 57mm: the front is red & yellow, & the back plain red. The Disc is 56mm Ø, and dark blue both sides except for a narrow, yellow outer ring on the front.
- The Propeller is 105mm o/a and 18mm wide at the tips.
- The Angle Bracket is about 11*14mm, with a 6mm long slotted hole in the short arm and a 9mm in t'other.
- The Spring Clip has narrow wings and is virtually identical to the equivalent MECCANO part.
- The Bolt, 8mm u/h, is nicely machined and has a deep, 3.5mm, head; the Nut is pressed its thickness varies from 2.4 to 2.6mm. Both look as shiny as new.
- Finish. The parts are well made and, apart from those mentioned above, are nicely nickel plated.



pin & I wonder if, despite the Spanner in the box, this might indicate that some form of bifurcated clip was used to join the parts rather than N&B. Its hard



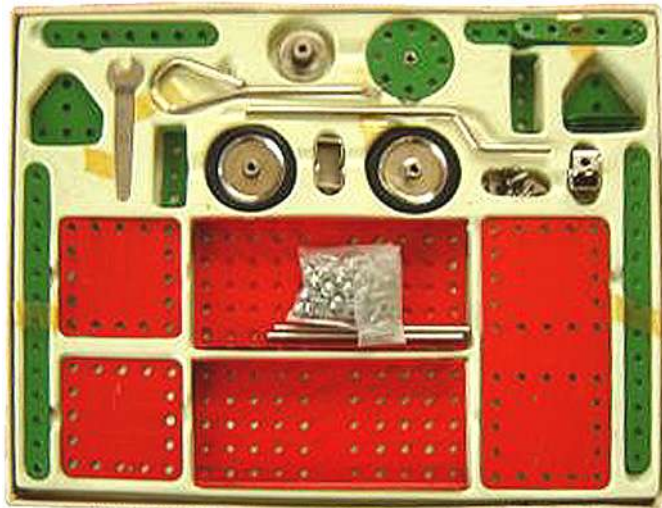
to see the figures on the lid but the overall effect looks rather whimsical & the label of the prewar ELECTRIC set

comes to mind (see 26/750).

SPLINTOFIX: S1

[36/1070]

4. **Snippet. 'New' System: MECA** The Ebay write up said that this set was made in Mexico by a company called Disa, and that the manual has 9 pages. As can be seen from the lid right the MECA·NO 2 could easily be read



as MECA·NO 2, and the 4 models shown above look to be taken directly from MECCANO manuals. The latest, the Milk Delivery Wagon, bottom left, was a No.2 model which first

appeared in 1954. Not all the parts that can be seen in the box match MECCANO exactly: the Trunnions have no cutouts; the 5*11h Flanged Plate at bottom centre has no end flanges, and no holes in the centre '5 hole' row; the Plate above it looks similar but 2 such in a small set would be unusual; the 5*11h (Flexible?) Plate to the right has a 5h square of holes at each end; and the green Strips at either side look to be 13h long.

MECA: S1

[36/1070]

4. **Snippet: LITTLE GIANT MODEL MAKER** The Tool from this American DIY system was shown in 21/603 and last year the set below was sold on Ebay. The words under 'Boys' on the lid are 'MAKE YOUR OWN CONSTRUCTION SETS', and the panels at the bottom are no doubt parts of a deep lid apron. The Tool is red and is mounted on a wooden base. The rod at right angles to the Tool's handle looks quite substantial and is perhaps a gauge bar rather than constructional material. I'm



not sure what the blue part between the Pulleys is.

LITTLE GIANT: S1

[36/1070]

6. **Snippet. 'New' System: METALL-BAUKASTEN** Below the lid, and in the Ebay photo it was surrounded by a large number of various parts. Most were shiny and probably MFA/MFC. Also several dull grey parts, probably TRIX. Finally a few rusty, ordinary looking parts, from the Set perhaps: 5, 7 & 11h Strips, 1*5*1h DAS, & two 2h Ø Fast Pulleys. Scaling from the Strips, the box would be a little longer than the 11h.



METALL-BAUKASTEN [5]: S1

[36/1070]

6. **Snippet. CORUS** The Window panel right (upside down) was in an Ebay lot of loose CORUS parts. It is a type of window not seen before as an actual part but it was used in the manual model House shown in 32/946. The parts were said to be the remains of a No.00 outfit, but the Window panel and some of the other pieces were probably from a larger set.



CORUS: S3

[36/1070]



some text in 8 languages. The 273B & D models are the same as two of those already described for METAL KITS, and the latter had those numbers on their model leaflets.

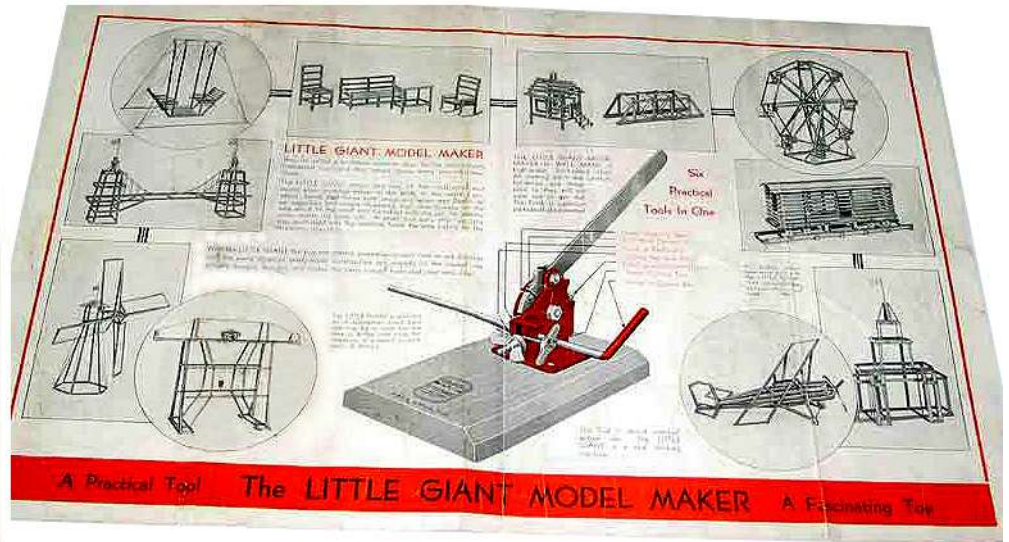
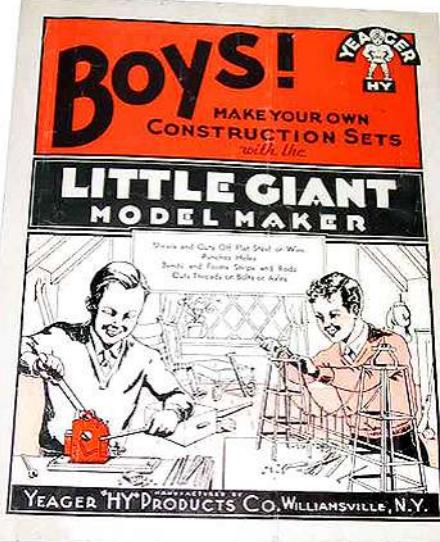
TECH 4 sets were seen on the UK Ebay late last year. The model on the lid right is new to me; those on the other sets, a Quad Bike, a Helicopter, and a Tank, look very similar but not identical to three of the models from the CT901 outfit.



OSN 37/1125

POLYLONG: S11

Snippet. LITTLE GIANT Models A little on this American 'DIY' system was given in 36/1070 but at the time no models had been seen. Below the front & inside of a flyer or model leaflet: it is probably just a single sheet folded over.



OSN 37/1125

LITTLE GIANT: S2

Snippet. 'New' System: TECNICAVIA L.P. Two Ebay lots of this system have been seen, both with blue and silver parts that look identical to those of Phase 1 AVIADYP (see 35/1052). The first has a fairly deep box with the lid right; it has Boîte 'A' under the name & 'c'est un jouet Sofic Sapem' at the bottom. It is recalled that 'S.O.F.I.C.' was blanked out on the Phase 1 No.2 set lid in OSN 35. 'L.P.' is on the hangar & also follows the name on the manual cover far right. Possibly they are the initials of Louis Petit who signed some of the AVIADYP artwork, and he invented the system and/or was the principal of the company who made it (compare STANDARD L.R., see 21/590).

Fuselage Skins #9 & 10, for example; and e) no holes can be seen in the cards for cord or clips to hold the parts in place.

As can be seen the manual is also for Set A. But what of the model



The parts in the lot included Floats, a Wing Centre Skin (AVIADYP #24), & more Wing parts than would be needed for a parasol wing model, but not enough for a Biplane. Thus the Set A may be the equivalent an AVIADYP No.2 but with some parts missing (or less likely Nos.1+1A with a few parts from another set). Also shown in the Lot, two brownish backing cards in the same general style as those used in Phase 3 AVIADYP with the outlines of the parts drawn on them. However only the PNs of the parts are shown, not their names, & though they can't be read clearly they don't look to be the same as AVIADYP. Other difference are: a) in some cases the drawings of the parts differ very slightly from their AVIADYP counterparts; b) a few of the No.2 parts are not shown, notably the smallest Fuselage Frame #37 & the Wing Full-span Spars #32; c) the layout of the other parts is not the same as the No.2; d) several major parts are shown as if assembled or packed one on top of the other, the Floats, & the

on the manual cover? There were no twin-fuselage models in AVIADYP Phase 1 and even allowing for some artistic licence the centre wing & fuselage don't look possible with Phase 1 parts. Nor with later parts for that matter. Was there a Set B with extra parts?

The second Ebay lot has no box or cards but is otherwise similar to the first. It consisted of a near complete Low Wing Monoplane that looks identical to Phase 1 AVIADYP, the same Set A manual, and some parts not used in the model, including Floats, parts for another Wing, & an assembled Centre Wing.

On balance it seems most likely that TECNICAVIA preceded AVIADYP and perhaps the change was made to take advantage of the popularity of Bébé DYP.

OSN 37/1125

TECNICAVIA: S1