

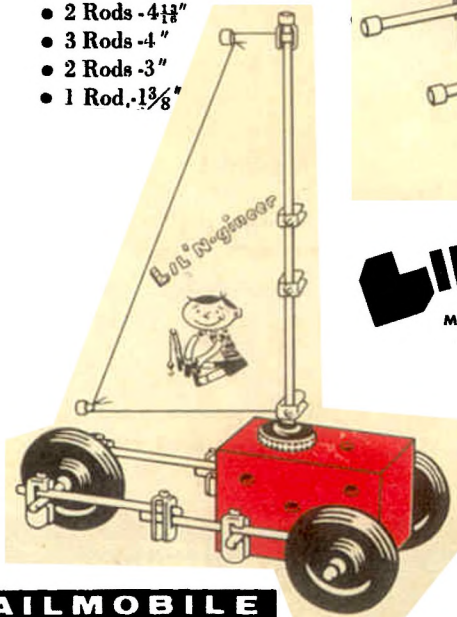
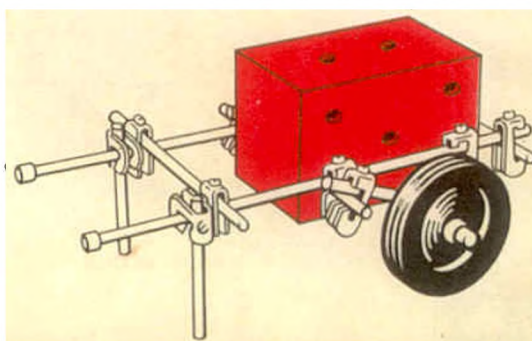
**EDITORIAL** Some changes are needed to keep OSN & the updates to MCS on-going. They are essential because I no longer have enough time to do all the work entailed (I'm slowing down as the years go by, and with more material available, research take appreciably longer. Three changes are envisaged.

First, after the ones for this issue, no colour pictures will be put on the OSN web site. Instead the pages with colour will be printed on my own printer, and also those with B&W photos, to improve their quality. It will mean

though that the N/L will be on A4 paper, and for reasons explained below, it will be printed single-sided.

Secondly, no new Extra MCS Sheets will be produced after the batch with this issue. Instead it is intended that those who wish to keep MCS up-to-date will simply add OSN articles to MCS, and as far as possible future articles will include all the usual MCS coverage. It is hoped to have rather larger illustrations to allow most of the relevant detail to be seen. Pages will of course not be in the MCS landscape format but by printing [continued on p811]

- 1 Body Block
- 3 Large Wheels
- 1 Small Wheel
- 9 Small Retainers
- 12 Clamps and 12 Screws
- 2 Rods -  $4\frac{1}{8}$ "
- 3 Rods - 4"
- 2 Rods - 3"
- 1 Rod -  $1\frac{3}{8}$ "

**SAILMOBILE**

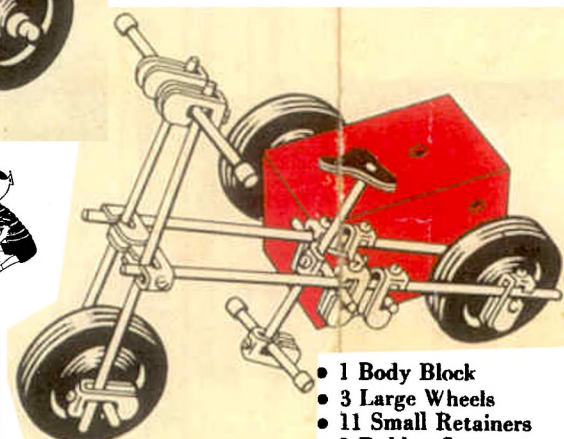
- 1 Body Block
- 2 Large Wheels
- 6 Small Retainers
- 14 Clamps and 14 Screws
- 2 Rods -  $6\frac{7}{8}$ "
- 1 Rods -  $4\frac{1}{8}$ "
- 2 Rods - 4"
- 2 Rods - 3"
- 2 Rods - 2"

**PUSH MOBILE**

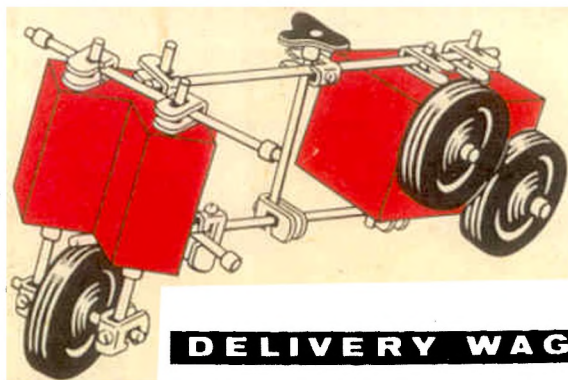
**LIL'N-gineer**  
MODEL CONSTRUCTION KIT



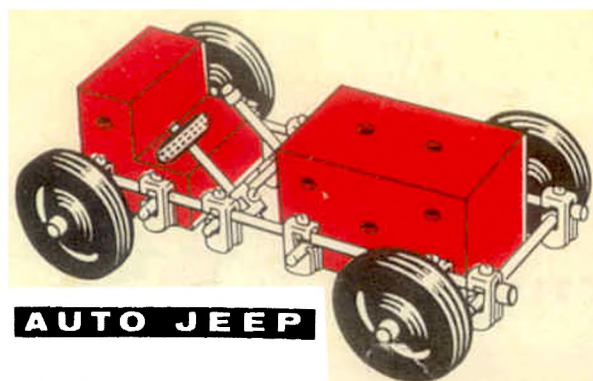
MORE ON  
LIL'N-GINEER  
OVERLEAF

**TRICYCLE**

- 1 Body Block
- 3 Large Wheels
- 11 Small Retainers
- 1 Rubber Seat
- 14 Clamps and 14 Screws
- 2 Rods -  $6\frac{7}{8}$ "
- 2 Rods -  $4\frac{1}{8}$ "
- 3 Rods - 4"
- 3 Rods - 2"

**DELIVERY WAGON**

- 1 "L" Block
- 1 Body Block
- 4 Large Wheels
- 1 Rubber Seat
- 15 Small Retainers
- 12 Clamps and 12 Screws
- 2 Rods -  $6\frac{7}{8}$ "
- 3 Rods - 4"
- 4 Rods - 3"
- 1 Rods -  $1\frac{3}{8}$ "

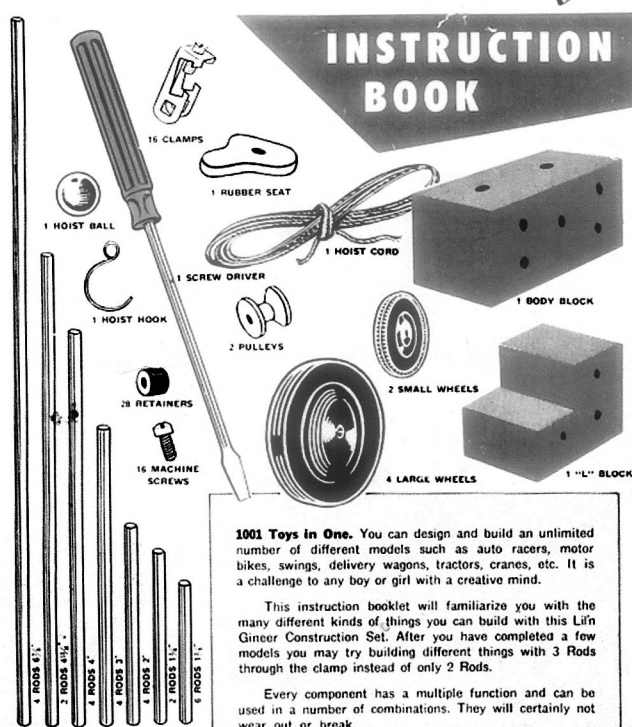
**AUTO JEEP**

- 1 "L" Block
- 1 Body Block
- 4 Large Wheels
- 1 Small Wheel
- 11 Small Retainers
- 14 Clamps and 14 Screws
- 2 Rods -  $6\frac{7}{8}$ "
- 2 Rods -  $4\frac{1}{8}$ "
- 4 Rods - 3"
- 2 Rods - 2"



## 'New' System: LIL'N-GINEER

Kendrick Bisset has recently found an example, nearly complete, of this small, rather unusual, Canadian set, and kindly sent details. It includes a Model Sheet and on the front, at the bottom, is 'Made In Canada by Eagle Toys Ltd. - Montreal, Canada'. Kendrick has another LIL'N-GINEER Model Sheet, identical in most respects, but at the bottom is 'Another Product by Chris Manufacturing Co. Inc., Modesto, California' and 'Exclusive Representatives, Novelty Mfg. Co., P.O. Box 1747, Richmond, California'. Also, most of the parts in the Set look similar to those of two MCS entries - the Spanish EL INGENIERO MECANICO, and the German ROBO.



Another Product by **Chris MANUFACTURING CO., Inc.** Modesto • California

Exclusive Representatives  
**NOVELTY MFG. CO.**  
P.O. Box 1747 - BEACON 3-5008  
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

Above, the front of the Chris Sheet with the Illustrated Parts. Apart from the company, it differs from the Eagle version only in the illustrations of the Clamp - the two types are shown below with the Eagle type on the right. Now notes on the actual parts. • The Blocks are wood, painted red. The Body Block is  $2\frac{7}{8} \times 1\frac{11}{16} \times 1\frac{11}{16}$ "; the 'L' Block is a  $1\frac{11}{16}$ " cube with a  $\frac{13}{16}$ " square corner removed. The holes are mostly at 1" spacing. • The 2 Pulleys are red painted wood,  $\frac{5}{8}$ " o.d. &  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. • The 16 Clamps look very much like the illustration. The 6-32 Setscrew has a fillister head, .175" Ø. There is enough room to fit two parallel rods in the Clamp, as well as one perpendicular to the other two. In the models shown only 2 Rods are used but it is said in the instructions, 'After you have completed a few models you may try building things with 3 Rods through the clamp instead of only 2 Rods.' With the Chris design the bottom Rod would be free to turn in the square hole. • Like the Clamps & Setscrews the Rods are steel, 26 in all, in 6 sizes, given on the Sheet as  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ , 2, 3, 4,  $4\frac{13}{16}$ , &  $6\frac{7}{8}$ " long. They are .161-.162" Ø, MECCANO size. • The 4 Large Wheels (2" Ø) are hard black

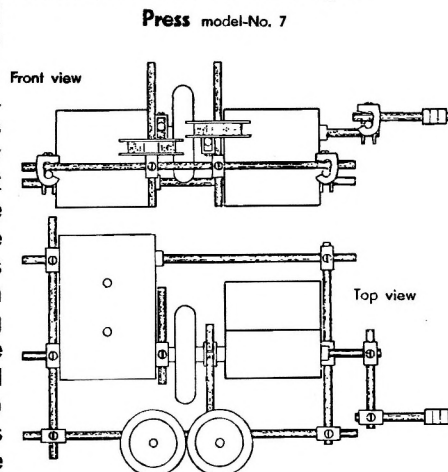
rubber and are a loose fit on the Rods. The 2 Small Wheels (1") are a bit softer, and are a press fit. • The Seat (about 1" long) is also black rubber & a press fit. • The 28 Retainers are red rubber, and look to be made from  $\frac{5}{16}$ " o.d. rubber tubing. Six of them stacked are just a shade more than 1" long. All of the rubber parts are still flexible. • The Screwdriver, some 7" long o/a, has a clear yellow plastic handle. • The Hoist Ball is missing from the Set.

The box is quite large & scales at  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ ". The lid above is red & black on yellow, with the parts to the left against a dark ground. In the white circle is 'Kit No.1 CONTAINS 101 PIECES'.

The Model Sheet is  $13 \times 9$ ", folded to give 4 sides. It is printed in red & black, and 15 models are shown, each with a Parts List. Some of the more interesting models are shown on the front of this Issue. The models are identical on the Chris & Eagle Sheets, and the Clamps shown in them do not have the bottom hole. It is left to the reader to imagine models in which Clamps with 3 Rods are used.

EL INGENIERO MECANICO is described in MCS as having bright steel & polished wooden parts. The dimensions given are only estimates but if correct the parts would be a little smaller than LIL'N-GINEER. The range of parts is the same except there is no direct equivalent to the red Pulley, and the Large Wheel is a Tyre on a Pulley. This Pulley serves instead of the LIL'N-GINEER red one. The 17 models shown include all the LIL'N-GINEER ones, though the latter have been redrawn with a few small changes.

Nothing is said about the ROBO parts in MCS, but 1 of the 2 pages of EL ING MEC models is included, and they are identical except that errors in the numbering of the Spanish models has been corrected. In addition engineering drawings of three models are included (labelled in English) and an example is shown right. It is one of the models not on the LIL'N-GINEER Sheet. The Parts List includes Rods 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7" long, and Eisenzeit notes them as 4mm Ø.



- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1 body block | 5 2" shafts |
| 1 L-Block    | 3 3" shafts |
| 1 wheel      | 1 4" shafts |
| 2 pulleys    | 2 5" shafts |
| 12 clamps    | 2 7" shafts |
| 8 bushings   |             |

Dates. MCS mentions 1940 for EL INGENIERO MECANICO, and in Eisenzeit ROBO is said to be from the 1950s. Judging by the box lid LIL'N-GINEER might be from the 1950s too.

## Another THALE STAHLBAU TECHNIK Nr.1 Outfit A

1972 Nr.1 was described in 8/174 (the box with the purplish lid) and now, courtesy David Hobson, I've been able to examine another Nr.1 from the same year (as judged by the last numbers of the lid label PR: Pn 13/1972). The two boxes are identical including all the details on the label. The parts' finish shows a couple of differences:

• The Flat Girder, Girder Bracket & 3\*5h Plate are nickel, but the 5\*5h Plate & the 3\*5h Flanged Plate (made from it) have a medium green crackle finish. Also they both have slotted holes,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm o/a, instead of the oversize round ones. So apparently the two styles were in use at the time. • The Screwdriver is virtually identical except that the handle is black and the 'VOLTUS' on the OSN 8 one is replaced by a word hard to read but possibly 'Smalcatda'.



& the benefit of this in allowing use anywhere, without fear of damage, was pointed out in both the FOR & NGN instructions.

On the end dates, nothing is known of NGN after WW2 but David found FOR listed in a 1954 & 1955 dealer's catalogue, but not in the 1959 edition. He also mentioned that catalogue pages showing FOR, from 1931 to 1951, are in a book called *Le Jouet de Paris JEP 1902-1968*.

**FORGEACIER: S1; N-G-NEERO: S1** [31/908-9]

5. Don Redmond commented that the number of **KONSTRUKTOR** systems, 18 at present, makes it difficult to identify any particular one, and that wherever possible the 'official' name should include any qualifying name on the box, transliterated of course. I'd rather given up doing this because sometimes the name on the set isn't the same as the one on the manual, sometimes the names on sets in the same range differ, and sometimes the names have stylised or cursive letters which makes transliteration difficult or even impossible. However I can see that for anyone prepared to do the necessary transliteration, the extra name would help in the critical case of having a set or manual and wanting to identify which **KONSTRUKTOR** it is in the OSN Index or Database. The transliteration table that I use for normal characters was given in 4/75, and below (thanks to Michael Denny) one for

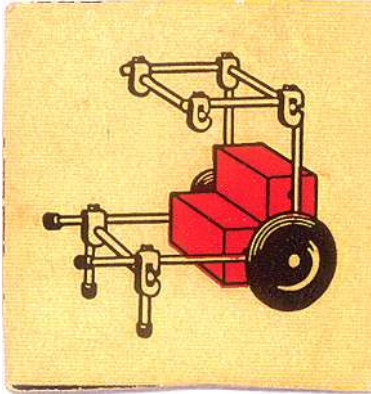
Printed form	Cursive form	П	п	Π	π
А	а	Р	р	Р	р
Б	б	С	с	С	с
В	в	Т	т	Π	т
Г	г	У	у	У	у
Д	д	Ф	ф	Ф	ф
Е	е	Х	х	Х	х
Ё	ё	Ц	ц	Ц	ц
Ж	ж	Ч	ч	Ч	ч
З	з	Ш	ш	Ш	ш
И	и	Щ	щ	Щ	щ
Й	й	Ъ	ъ	Ъ	ъ
К	к	Ы	ы	Ы	ы
Л	л	Ь	ь	Ь	ь
М	м	Э	э	Э	э
Н	н	Ю	ю	Ю	ю
О	о	Я	я	Я	я

their cursive form. In the end though I suspect that the real answer would be an illustrated index with small photos of the logo, lid(s), manual cover(s), etc for each system. Comments on all this would be welcome.

**Cyrillic Names** [31/909]

6. Don also sent some details of John Wapshott's **LIL'N-GINEER** set (see 27/782), or rather a set of parts in a chocolate box, with the name from the original lid pasted on to its lid.

The form of this name, left, differs from the one in OSN 27 (even though there may originally been another word after CONSTRUCTION). There was no model sheet with the set but 6 cards, 5\*5cm, with a model on each. The model on the one left isn't included in the OSN 27 model sheet; the others are but the drawings differ a little in each case. Some of the parts are not quite the same either, notably the dimensions of the wheels: Don gave the o.d. of their Tires as 27, 30, & 33mm, but it isn't sure which of them are original.



**LIL'N-GINEER: S1** [31/909]

7. News from Paul Goodman that deliveries of the **MÄRKLIN METALL Excavator Set** were stopped until a mistake in the instructions was corrected – they were due to resume around August/September. Paul also sent a better photo and some notes on the model. All the movements are hand operated by Cranks on one side of the cab but there is probably enough room inside to house Motors, etc. The tracks are based on the MetallusTrack Set with nearly 1600 parts. Looking at the photo there are probably special Plates used in the cab & bucket.

**MÄRKLIN: S2** [31/909]

8. Paul also recently visited the **AUTOMAT** factory and kindly sent me a current catalogue. It is identical to the 1993 one described in OSN 21 but there may have been some small changes in the contents of the current sets. With it a leaflet showing 5 Junior Gear Kits not known before. They are #1-5, called Gear Drives; Traction Drives - synchronous; Traction Drives - asynchronous; Gear Drives with crossed Shafts; & Friction Wheel Drives. Each is packed in a plastic box & has a selection of Gears & parts to make frameworks for them, including a clear Plastic Plate unique to the Junior sets. The ready-built **COMPACT** Gear Models are also mentioned, 50 of them though the firm's web site, [www.compact-technik.de](http://www.compact-technik.de), lists 76. This site also has some details of the sets, & illustrations of the parts. A price list for the parts can be downloaded & it shows a few changes from the Catalogue, with some additions and some deletions.

**AUTOMAT:S1** [31/909]

**SMALL AD** [31/909]

**Wanted STOKYS** sets, parts, manuals. Please list & price in first letter. Richard Symonds, Suite 101, 1675 Martin Dr., Surrey, B.C. V4A 6E2, Canada. Tel: 1-604-536-6538.

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**Small Ads** Short ads are free to subscribers (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask). Insertion guaranteed in OSN 32 if received by the end of January.

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is	after this Issue

Please send at least £                      if you wish to receive the next Issue.

**EDITORIAL** The Index for OSN 1-30 & the revised Database are both now available. The Database has 56 pages, too many to staple together easily, so it is in two parts, with the basic alphabetical sort in one and every thing else in the other. For prices please see the Small Ads overleaf (the Database is cheaper than forecast because of an arithmetic misfortune on my part). The basic alphabetical sort of the Database is also now on the web site but I've yet to find a way of printing off the righthand side of the landscape A3 pages on an A4 printer. Expert advice welcome. Still on the Database, if you ordered a copy and haven't received it, please let me know (this time it was a spilt tea misfortune which made part of my list illegible).

My stock of some OSN back numbers has run out, and their replacements will be in the form of loose, double-sided A4 sheets made by scanning the original masters. As explained in 31/939 it is easy to make such sheets into the stapled, folded A3 style, and the quality of the scanned photos is nearly always better than the original photocopies.

I am now using the OpenOffice word processor for OSN, with .sxw ending files. There is no problem about opening WORD files in OpenOffice but OpenOffice users sending me files need no longer save them in WORD format. In passing, for anyone not familiar with OpenOffice, it is a free download suite including a spreadsheet, a drawing tool, etc. My experience of the word processor in producing this Issue is that although not perfect it is overall rather better & easier to use than WORD, especially with regard to graphics.

## Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. Don Redmond noted a Crank Handle, apparently **VOGUE**, with a diameter of 3.48mm, against the normal  $3.66 \pm 0.01$ . 1 of the 6 to hand here was anomalous at 3.57, and 1 of 6 Axles at 3.76, but I can't guarantee that they are actually genuine VOGUE parts.

### VOGUE: S2

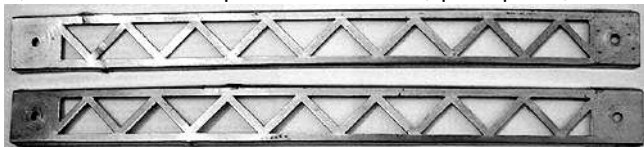
[32/940]

2. Don also wrote of some **MASTER BUILDER** parts, see 16/450. The 25h Angle Girder has 4.3mm holes in each, 15mm wide, arm, and square corners. The 5 & 25h Strips have large-radius ends. The 4h Disc, #19, is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Ø. All these parts, and a 5\*11h Flanged Plate are tinplate, grey with age, but the Road Wheel, #30 ( $2\frac{3}{4}$ " Ø, not the 3" in the Parts List), is black enamelled, and its 8 face holes are at  $\frac{3}{4}$ " radius.

### MASTER BUILDER: S3

[32/940]

3. Jacques Pitrat sent notes on early 12" **ERECTOR** Girders. The first ones in 1913 (they had edges with narrow flanges rather than the V-formed type introduced in 1914) were handed, as shown in the photo below. Most, perhaps all, handed



ERECTOR parts had separate PNs, but not in this case, and it may be that the handing was not deliberate but depended on how the part was handled in the production process. This could explain why the number of each hand found in lots/sets is never equal. Handed Girders with the new type of edge also

exist, witness those in the 1914 No.1 set on p51 in *Greenberg*, but this is the only example known and those in the 1914 No.7 on p52 are all of the hand seen in all later sets. No doubt a change in the production method eliminated the possibility of handed parts. However this meant that it was not possible to get 'double-bracing' by laying one Girder on top of another of opposite hand (see 15/400). It also meant that 2 sides of a model could not be made to match, in a Bridge for instance, although in most cases this would not matter. Going back to the 1913 parts, double-bracing could be obtained by placing 2 Girders of the same hand with their flat faces together.

### ERECTOR [1 & 2]: S1

[32/940]

4. From John Wapshott. In addition to the parts mentioned in 31/909, John has a Canadian 'Eagle' **LIL'N'GINEER** set (see 27/782). The box measures  $12\frac{1}{4} \times 14\frac{5}{8} \times 2$ " and its lid & model leaflet are as described in OSN 27.

### LIL'N'GINEER: S2

[32/940]

5. Orion DreamDancer wrote that there are two types of 1" x  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 Bolt in both of his Farmingdale Aircraftmen Mfg. Co. **TECHNICAL TRAINER** sets (see 19/528 & 23/658). They are similar but one has 'STRONGHOLD' across the top of the head in slightly raised letters, and is threaded all the way to the head, while the other head is unmarked and has about  $\frac{3}{16}$ " of the plain shank under it.

Orion also kindly sent an example of the Hook mentioned in 23/658. It is a flat 'S' type, made of 2.7mm Ø dull plated wire, and is 30mm long o/a.

### TECHNICAL TRAINER: S1

[32/940]

6. Werner Sticht has added to his web site about **STABIL**, [www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu](http://www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu), with more on the parts, the Motors, the period 1921-28, the Inventor sets, prices of sets etc in many years to allow precise dating, etc, etc. Werner hopes to add an English version one day.

### STABIL: S2

[32/940]

7. From Don Redmond, about two manuals for the Canadian **YOUNG ENGINEER** system. This system hasn't been mentioned in OSN before but like CONSTRUCTO (see 30/876A, 22/651 & earlier) which succeeded it in 1980, it consisted of 6 sets made up in Canada by Paramount Industries from 1978 to 1980, using MERKUR parts. (Another similar system not previously mentioned is BUILD-O which succeeded or ran alongside CONSTRUCTO in 1981-82.)

The Y E manual covers seen are all like the No.3 shown in MCS (with a Lathe on the front, YOUNG ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTION SET MANUAL above it and MANUEL DE CONSTRUCTION DU JEUNE INGÉNIEUR below— all in B&W but with the outfit number in red). All the models are shown as line drawings with names & numbers. Although the covers are bilingual the model names & notes inside are in English only.

The No.1 has a single sheet inside the covers, 9\*13" in vertical format, folded once to give 4 landscape pages and stapled on the top long side to the matching covers. 37 models are shown but the model numbers are not in sequence, with Nos.1-7 & 12 on the last page.

The No.6 has 11 similarly folded sheets inside the covers with the No.1 sheet the outermost one. Model numbers on the

5. **Snippet. 'New' System: TIBI** This Hungarian system, was said to be from the 1970s, and it looks as if it may have been inspired by MERKUR. FÉMÉPÍTŐ on the cover of the manual probably means Metal Builder and mintafüzet, model book.



The main similarities to MERKUR are: • The 10h Strips, 5\*5h Flanged Plate, and the Flat Trunnion look identical. • All the parts in a 1960s MERKUR No.1 set would fit into the tray. The empty recesses would take a DAS & Crank Handle on the right, and an Axle, Flat Trunnion, & Spanner on the left. There is nothing obvious to go in the deep, long oval recess on the lefthand side though. Perhaps only the N&B were in the circular recess and the other small parts & the Cord were in the oval.

The differences are: • The colours - at the time MERKUR Flanged Plates were blue, 10h Strips orange or brown, 3 & 5h Strips nickel, Trunnions & Pulleys green. • Although the red A/B in the circular recess has a slotted hole and could be MERKUR pattern, the blue parts look to be 2h Strips and not the Flat Brackets that might be expected. • The Screwdriver in the MERKUR No.1 was the flat type - sets above No.3 had wire ones. • The white circular part in the circular recess - it might be a Loose Pulley but the MERKUR part was metal and was only included in Set 3 and upwards.

**TIBI: S1**

[38/1133]

6. **Snippet. A Small MEKNEX Set** MEKNEX sets (see 36/1078) have been less common on the Argentinian Ebay recently but the set right was seen late last year. With 71 parts to make the Avioneta on the lid it is smaller than the other known outfits. The box was said to be 16\*9cm and on the back is 'Articulo: K10', so perhaps there was a series of these smaller kits. If the model on the lid is to be believed the parts in the Set are all the same colour, and at least one of them, the 5h A/G used for the undercarriage skid, was not in the OSN 36 set.



**MEKNEX: S2**

[38/1133]

7. **Snippet. Another LIL'N-GINEER Maker** A model sheet giving the Chris Mfg. Co. as maker, and the Novelty Mfg. Co as representative, was shown in 27/782, and since then a box lid with these names in the bottom right corner has been seen. Otherwise it is identical to the Eagle lid in OSN 27. Another set, said to be from the 1950s has the same lid with Novelty again as the representative, but the maker's name is Sevenness Co. A line under the name, the address no doubt, is illegible.

**LIL'N-GINEER S3**

[38/1133]

8. **Snippet. A JR ENGINEER Midget Set** Notes on the commonest (No.4½) JR set, and a Special set, smaller but with a C/W Motor and a different range of parts, were given in 33/975 & 976. Since then a jumble of parts plus manual, said to be from a Midget set, was offered on Ebay. The parts included several of those peculiar to the Special outfit and none of those peculiar to the '4½'. The main parts of the Special set that couldn't be seen are the Motor, the Disc, the DAS, & one or two of the 3 larger types of Brackets. However it's not certain that all the parts that could be seen were from the Midget because among them were 6 of the black Road Wheels, and one would not expect so many in what was presumably a small outfit. Probably the lot contained parts from more than one outfit.

The manual is printed on the same fawn paper as the Special, but only one corner of it could be seen and the simple model there was too blurry to be recognisable, except that it isn't one of the Special models. The models in the manual were given as: Table; Wheelbarrow; Picnic Bench; See Saw; Tank; Airplane; Railroad Engine; Ship; Lumber Wagon; Anti-Aircraft Gun; Railroad Crossing Gate; Cart, Crane, Truck. 7 of those names are used for models in the Special manual and if they were to be the same, all the different main parts in the Special would be needed except the Motor, the 16h Strip, the Disc, & the Road Wheel.

**JR ENGINEER S3**

[38/1133]

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