

More on Norwegian TEKNO Some notes about this system, as it was around 1964-70, appeared in 5/102, and now more has emerged, thanks to Alf Jacob Munthe. He had some TEKNO as a boy, c1950, and the big surprise is that, at least then, the parts were unpainted aluminium. Alf sent copies of various items including, from about 1950, a Price List, and the covers & Illustrated Parts from a manual. However as will be explained, the range of parts in the Manual's Illustrated Parts is most likely to date from before those in the Price List, and to avoid confusion I'll call the Manual '1940s' & the Price List '1950s'.

The Sets The first reference Alf has to TEKNO is a



1935 ad from a shop called Ingwald Nielsen in Oslo. Four outfits were listed: 00-2, plus linking sets OA & 1A. The box shown has a label similar to the 1940s Manual cover left, but with the set number in the ball the crane is carrying. The

1940s Manual has the earlier sets plus a No.3, & a 2A, and the 1950s List has in addition, an 'X' accessory set.

The Parts 140 items are included in the 1940s Illustrated Parts. They have MECCANO PNs and go to #166. Most of the basic parts from the pre-WW2 MECCANO range up to #166 are included, among them all the A/Gs except the 37 & 49h; all the Flat & Braced Girders; and the cylindrical parts 162-164. Absent are: all the Gears except the 1/2" Pinion, the 1 1/2" Gear, & the Worm; the large circular parts; most brassware except the Collar & Coupling; and many of the 'engineering' parts. None of the 'loom' & 'railway' parts are present but included are the Woodscrew #68, the Weights 66 & 67, and the Ship's Funnel 138a.

It is thought that the **set contents** up to this time followed those of the equivalent MECCANO outfits from the late 1920s or early 1930s, and this may in part explain the TEKNO range of parts. For instance the 'boiler' parts, and the Swivel & End Bearings, were in Meccano's No.3. The Ship's Funnel is another such part and it is interesting that it was included in Meccano's No.3 Set in 1927-30, but not thereafter. An indication of TEKNO's start date perhaps.

The 1950s Price List has only 82 parts including four not in the 1940s Illustrated Parts: the Large, Medium, & Small Rubber Wheels (Gummihjul), and a Miniaturhjul, perhaps #178 in the 1960s. They have been added to the bottom of the Price List, without PNs.

With only one or two exceptions, and apart from the unnumbered parts, the range of parts in the Price List are just those needed for the MECCANO 1931-34 No.3. (The Ship's Funnel is not in the List and was the only part dropped from the MECCANO No.3 in 1931.) The exceptions are that the List contains the Crankshaft, and the Pawl & Ratchet Wheel, none of which were needed for the No.3, but doesn't have the Pivot Bolt, #147b, which was needed.

By 1964, as can be seen in OSN 5, the number of parts had increased to 124. Some of the 'missing' ones had been reinstated, mainly Strips, A/Gs, Flat & Braced Girders, and Axles. The new parts included the Wheel Disc 24a, and the 20 with PNs above #166, many of which are illustrated in OSN 5. Most are reasonable additions to increase the potential of the system – the most novel is the 32*15cm Perforated Plate, #186, which was made of soft aluminium and was meant to be cut to the required size with ordinary scissors.

The X Set In fact the Perforated Plate #186 must have been introduced much earlier because it was the main item in the X Set of about 1950. Initially 2 were included, but a third was added when the Scissors that were originally in the outfit, were omitted. Other parts were some 2 dozen N&B, and 33 useful parts including Strips, A/Gs, Brackets, Axles,

and 2 of the small Rubber Wheels.

Material About 1950 the parts were made from aluminium, and bosses were zinc. It isn't known for sure whether steel was used at other times, but probably it was earlier because on the '1950' Price List is 'Kjøp den nye TEKNO i aluminium med gummihjul.' with the last words bold as shown. I think this means 'Buy the new aluminium TEKNO with rubber wheels'. The Flanged Plate bought around 1970 as TEKNO, together with the OSN 5 manual, was steel painted red but was not marked in any way to prove it was TEKNO. Against a change to steel by that time, the parts in the models on the colour covers of the OSN 5 manual are all a light grey. In any case it's probable that the 32*15cm Plate would have remained aluminium.

The page size of the 1940s Manual is 185*260mm, and on the back cover is the printer, Johan Solberg Trykk, Oslo.

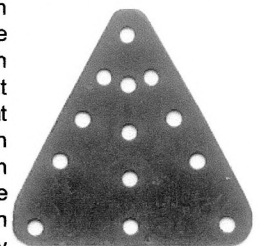
A WISDOM/MEKANIK Set A hybrid WISDOM/MECHANIC set was noted in 25/739, and now David Hobson has kindly lent me another he has found. But this time it is a No.2, and destined for Sweden. The box is 24*31 1/2*2cm in the usual WISDOM style, with a see-through lid. On its dark red border is WISDOM & SAGESSE as before, and on the black sides are '2' in a circle and K. MM 192. The style of the parts tray is as in OSN 25, and the parts and their colour scheme also correspond except that in this case the 5h Strips are still nickel. The contents are as in MCS (with the 1/2" plastic Pulley but no 5/8" Fixed Pulley nor 2 1/4" small diameter Rods).

The Model Leaflet is in the MECHANIC style and has the OSN 25 maker & copyright date, but the name on the front is MEKANIK LÅDA (Låda means building set), with 'BYGG- OCH KONSTRUKTIONS SYSTEM' between the 2 words. The top half is shown below, and also has NO.06-312 on it. The only other text, the names of the models, is in English. I shall note the system as MEKANIK LÅDA to avoid confusion with all the other MEKANIKS.

With a few minor changes, the 20 models are as in an old 'red/green' leaflet, except that the THREE WHEEL TRUCK now has 4 Wheels & is called a TAREE WHEEL TRUCK.



QUERY 27 The part below right, 1/2-fullsize, was found in a mixed lot. It is painted red, with 4.1mm Ø holes at 12.7mm pitch, except that the top vertical pair are at 13mm, & the pitch of the bottom corner holes is about 51.5mm. The only similar shape that came to mind was the South African MAAKEETS #35 Univ. Construction Trunnion, which in MCS is said to have 4.2mm holes at 12.7mm pitch. It's been said that MAAKEETS parts weren't very well made so perhaps that explains the differences, but if anyone has any MAAKEETS some details would be very welcome, or is there a similar part in another system? None of the other pieces in the lot seemed to be MAAKEETS.



By chance a few days after finding the part I discovered two similar in the bottom of a box of unknowns. The hole spacings are identical but the holes are 4.3mm and the finish is BZP. The outside shape has slipped down slightly in relation to the holes so there is about 1mm more metal under the bottom holes and correspondingly less above the apex hole. Two phases for MAAKEETS were noted in 14/367, and in one the parts on the cover of a manual are shown red & green. It would be a great & happy coincidence if my red part was from one period and the BZP ones from the other.