

## Update: the Swedish MEKANIK/MECANIC.

An account of this 1948-58 system was given in 20/577 and at the time there was reason to be unsure if the MECANIC name was used before it was changed to MEKANIK. Further work by Staffan Kjellin has resolved the matter and he shows photos of lids, manuals, parts lists, etc at [www.nzmeccano.com/image-51169](http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-51169), with explanatory notes.

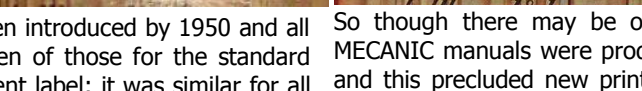
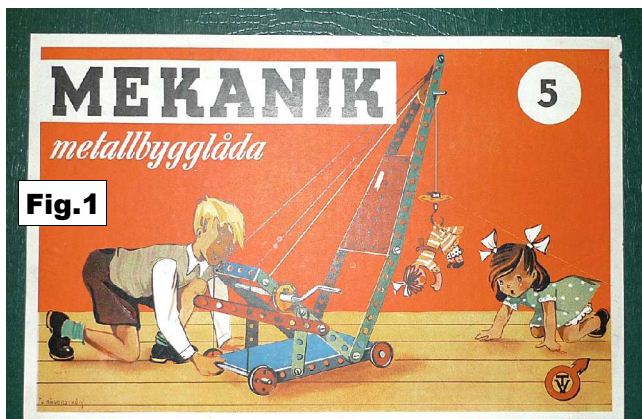
What follows is a summary of the OSN 20 history of the system but taking into account Staffan's information and any other new material to hand.

**MEKANIK 1948-49** Staffan has identified 6 versions of the lid label for the standard & linking sets. The Type 1 from 1948-49 is shown in Fig.1 (in the original it can be seen that the boy looks to have an expression of glee as he (no doubt) teases his tearful little sister by hoisting her doll on the Crane). There were Sets 1-5 plus linking Sets 1a-4a, with parts up to #52. So the name was MEKANIK at the outset.

There were 2 manuals in this period with the cover in Fig.2. One was for Sets 1-2 with 12 inside pages, the other for Sets 3-5 with 52 inner pages. There was also a 1-5 dated 1948 with the same number of pages. The 1-2 & 1-5 were described in OSN 20. All these had the same cover. (The 1-2 had many fewer models than those for Sets 1 & 2 in the 1-5 manual: I wonder if only Sets 1 & 2 were produced initially.)

**MEKANIK Early 1950s** Fig.3 shows the Type 3 label, it was second version of the label used from 1950 on. The first (that's to say Type 2) was identical except that the name wasn't edged with black & the shades of the colours were slightly different. Sets 5a & 6 were added to the range in 1950, and a Price List thought to be c.1951 includes the 6a & 7. It also lists Sets 8, 9, 7a, 8a, 4S, & 6S, but without prices. The 6a & 7 were certainly available by 1952, they were included in a manual of that date. The No.6 had parts up to #109, the No.7 #112, and by 1952 the remainder of the full range of parts, up to #133, was available as separate parts.

The supplement-ary sets 1S, 2S, 3S, & 5S had been introduced by 1950 and all were in blue boxes (not the green of those for the standard sets). They had an entirely different label: it was similar for all the sets & the No.2S is described in 20/579, with a colour photo of it on p3 of the 'OSN 20' link on the OSNL website.



With the advent of the No.6 the 3-5 manual was replaced by a 3-6 version. Later after Set 7 appeared the manuals were: 1-2, 3-5, & 6-7. However the manuals often found are a 1-5 (56 pages plus covers) & a 6-7 (36 plus covers). Both are described in OSN 20. Their covers were as Fig.2 except that the 6-7 had '6-7' in black in the top right corner; the others may have shown their set numbers.

**MECANIC** The date of its appearance is uncertain but is thought to have been in the second half of the 1950s. A lid label (Type 4) is as Type 2 but with the name shown in Fig.4. A MECANIC Price List has all the parts & sets listed in the c.1951 List including Sets 8, 9, 7a, 8a, 4S, & 6S. But these were again without prices, and it is thought that they were never marketed.

Fig.5 shows a manual cover from MCS which is quite different to the usual one and the inside pages show, under the MECANIC name, all the parts, sets & manuals that were in the preceding MEKANIK range. There were most probably also manuals with covers similar to MEKANIK because as will appear a front cover is known with MEKANIK superimposed over MECANIC.

**MEKANIK Again** The name MEKANIK was used again after Meccano objected to the use of MECANIC (it had similarly persuaded Jouets de Paris to drop its MÉCANIC brand in the early 1920s). Two labels are known, Type 5 which has a label (Fig.6) stuck over MECANIC, & Type 6 with MECANIC overprinted in red/silver (Fig.7).

It seems likely that the manuals would be as in the earlier MEKANIK period but a 1-5 to hand is worth mentioning. The name on the front has been overprinted in red & silver, as in Fig.7, plus '1-5' in red top right. Presumably the name was originally MECANIC and this is borne out by the heading 'MECANIC-detaljer' for the Illustrated Parts on the inside rear cover. But the front & rear outside covers have photos of sets with MEKANIK clearly shown on their lids, and the inside pages all have MEKANIK where appropriate.

So though there may be other explanations I suppose the MECANIC manuals were produced as economically as possible and this precluded new printing blocks for the outside of the covers. Only 6 of the inner pages showed the MEKANIK name & it isn't known if they were ever replaced in the MECANIC era.