

'New' System: MECANIC Jan Ringnalda kindly sent photos of a set from this hitherto unknown system. It is basically similar to A.W.S., see 38/1143 & Fig.3, but the parts are steel rather than aluminium. Nothing is known of the maker and even its country of origin isn't certain, though I suppose it's very likely to be German.

The box is wooden with a sliding lid (Fig.1); the name on it, in white letters on what remains of a red ground, is hard to see but may be clearer in a tweaked, negative version below.

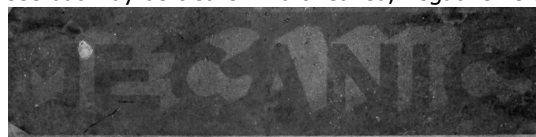


Fig.1

Fig.2



Fig.3

Fig.3 shows the open box with its A.W.S. counterpart alongside. The A.W.S. box is of course cardboard but otherwise, as can be seen, the two are almost identical, virtually the same size overall and with only very minor changes to the partitioning.

Apart from their colour the sheet metal parts look identical in the two with a few exceptions. The MECANIC holes may be slightly larger, the end holes in the MECANIC Windmill Sails are not elongated, and there are 8 holes along the base of the 'Roof' Sector Plate whereas the A.W.S. part has 7 plus a half hole at each end (to allow one Bolt to hold two parts abutting one another in, for example, a roof).

A.W.S. has 4 each of 2 sizes of Pulley and the MECANIC parts match them (it may not be clear in the photo but the larger diameter ones have 8 peripheral holes like the A.W.S. part). In addition there are some smaller Pulleys in the right side compartment of the MECANIC: 3 with boss plus 4 slightly larger without boss.

The shafts of the Crank Handles are about the same length but the A.W.S. part has angled rather than square bends. No long Axles can be seen in the MECANIC set but there are some Headed Pins in the top left bay. They scale at about 60mm long, 10mm longer than the corresponding

A.W.S. part, an Axle (and there are only 2 of them in A.W.S.).

A.W.S. has no Gears but 2 compound Gears with 18/54 & 18/64 teeth can be seen in the bottom bay of the MECANIC box. Like the smaller Pulleys it isn't known if they are original.

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MECANIC [7]: S1

'New' System: EDUCATIONAL TOY

Thank you to Jan Ringnalda for sending details of his little set. It was produced by Daiya in Japan (see Fig.1, a corner of the lid below), and presumably, with all the text on the lid in English, it was to be exported.



Fig.1

The blue strip parts in the box (Fig.3) remind one of CONSTRUCTION JEEP, another set produced by Daiya (among others), see 19/537. Their dimensions too are virtually the same with the 3mm holes at 10.0mm pitch, and the Strips 9.5mm wide. Other parts which look the same, or very similar,

are the Screwdriver, the Axles with their push-on Axle Stops, and the N&B. The Wheels have the same look to them but at 18mm Ø are much smaller. The Flanged Plates measure 70*50, 50*25, & 25*15mm o/a. The thread is 1/8" BSW.

The claim of 100 constructions on the lid, and the several sizes of Flanged Plates, bring 'Matchbox' sets to mind (see 6/130) and this Set could be seen as a super one of those, though with of course conventional packaging. And the models on the lid have perhaps something of the 'Matchbox' character about them.

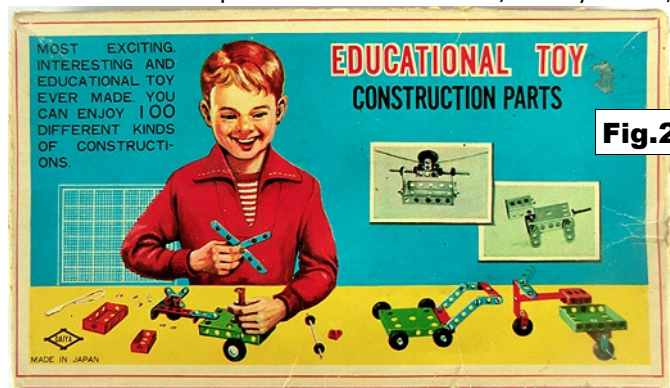


Fig.2

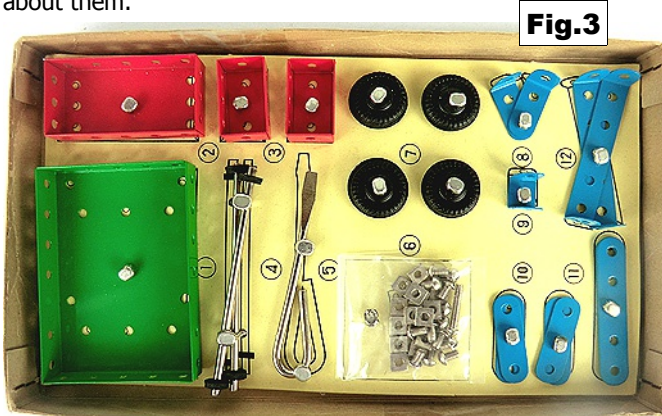


Fig.3

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