

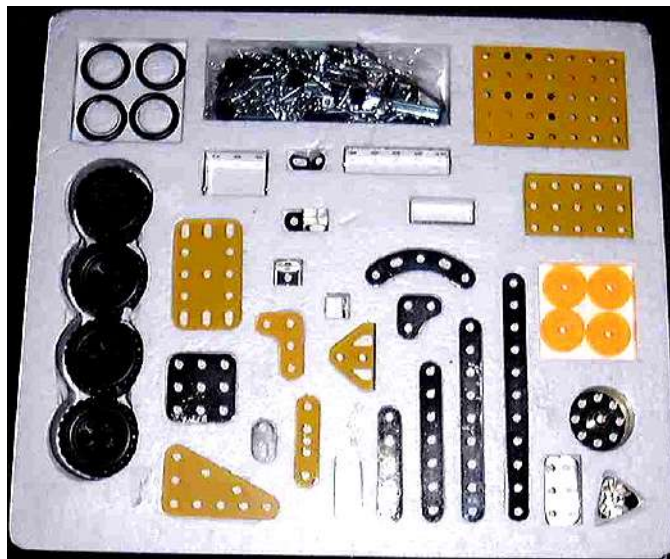
'New' System: MECH-BUILDER Edmundo Veiga found some sets from this 'Made in China' MECCANO-like system in Buenos Aires recently and kindly sent some details. They seemed to be old stock and later John Stark from New Zealand told Edmundo that he saw the brand on sale some 4 years ago.

The SETS The 'NZ' sets were numbered M601 & M602, and



the tray of the M601 is shown above right. Edmundo saw 6 outfits on sale, a basic set at US\$17, a \$10 Racing Car set, & four \$5 'single-model' sets, M603B, D, E, F. The lid of the 603B above shows the 4-Wheel 'Car' that can be made from the Set, the 3-Wheel 'Motorcycle' from the 603D, & a Truck from, no doubt, another set in the series. The 603E makes a very simple Monoplane and the 603F the Snow Vehicle right.

The PARTS With one exception all those seen look just like MECCANO and they match in terms of their 12.7mm pitch holes & 5/32" BSW thread. Nuts



are square and the Bolts have Allen heads. The exception is a

BZP 3-Way Corner Bracket (right) in the 'NZ' set. Using MECCANO PNs the other parts visible (from all the sets) are: 2,2a,3,4,5,6,6a,9f,10,11, 12,12c, 40,50,90mm Axles, 22a(very tight push-fit plastic), 24a,35,37a,37b,38,38a, 2*3*2h DAS, 48,48a,51,53,74,90a, 10,20mm Bolts, 125(all round holes),126,133a,133b,155, black Road Wheel, 188(or plastic), 221. The black looking parts in the 601 tray are, where it would be expected, BZP. The 3-Way Brackets are housed in the bottom right corner. Various combinations of yellow, red, & BZP parts are used in the small models.



The MODEL LEAFLETS Those for the Edmundo's 603 sets are all similar in showing the finished model, as for the M603F left, followed by 6 or 7 building steps, with the parts for each specified. There are no model names, just MECH-BUILDER and the slogan in English, as on the lid. In some Leaflets slotted holes are shown in the Trunnion's base but they are round in the actual parts.

OSN 30/907

MECH-BUILDER: S1

More on UMAKIT Notes on a small, unnumbered set appeared in 13/339, and some similarities with CONSTRUCTO were mentioned in 19/539 & 25/740. Now photocopies of 4 pages, 225*180mm deep, from a UMAKIT Model Leaflet have been found - perhaps they were from a folded-over sheet but references are made to illustrations which are not on any of the pages, so there may have been others originally. The front page has an introduction, then the Price List below (enlarged for clarity), and at the bottom is the address of Denton Claff Ltd, - 8/10 Charing Cross Road, London, W.C2. The other pages show 5 models for each of Sets 1, 2, & 3, one page for each Set.

The intro gives practical hints: 'If you find you are short of a curved strip, take a straight one & curve it'; 'If a sharp bend is required - use pliers'; and 'Rectangular and round "Medicine bottles" may be pressed into service as formers when bending strips or plates.' After that there is mention of models from Sets 4 & 5: 'two fire engines in the illustrations 4.1 & 5.3'. Then a Bogey Carriage running along an A/G

track is explained in some detail, and finally 'The spare part list of over 80 different parts gives you great scope', but only 40 parts are in the List below. Not all the 40 parts are used in the Set 1-3 models - #60, for example, the 3*5h Flanged Plate, certainly isn't.

Compared to the list of CONSTRUCTO parts in MCS, the PNs are different but all of the names common to both are the same, including the unusual ones such as 8 Holes Wheel Disc, & Right Angled Trunnion. Some parts are in one but not the other and one is the Double Pulley, #50 below. The UMAKIT prices are the slightly cheaper of the two, so perhaps it came first.

There is one photo of each of the models and they run from 1.2 SCALES to 1.5 ENGINEERS WORK BENCH, 2.1 MOTOR LORRY to 2.5 WINDMILL; & 3.1 FLOATING CRANE to 3.5 TRAMP STEAMER. Apart from the Wheels most are fairly close copies of MECCANO but only one, 3.2 DELIVERY VAN, is anything like any of the models in the CONSTRUCTO manual described in OSN 25.

No.	Description	Price	No.	Description	Price
1.	Perforated Strip 12 1/2"	5 1/2d.	27.	Crank handle, 3 1/2"	5d.
2.	" " 7 1/2"	4d.	37.	Axle Rods 4 1/2"	2 1/2d.
3.	" " 5 1/2"	3 1/2d.	39.	" " 3 1/2"	2d.
4.	" " 3 1/2"	3d.	42.	" " 1"	1d.
5.	" " 2 1/2"	2 1/2d.	43.	Wheel, 1 1/2" diameter	6 1/2d.
6.	" " 1 1/2"	1 1/2d.	44.	Wheel, 2" diameter	8d.
7.	" " 1"	1/-	47.	Jockey Pulley, 1" diameter	5d.
8.	Angle Girder, 12 1/2"	8 1/2d.	48.	Bushed Pulley 1" diameter	8d.
15.	Angle Bracket, 1/2" x 1/2"	1/3	49.	" " 2"	1/2
16.	Obtuse Bracket, 1/2" x 1/2"	1/6	50.	Double Pulley, 2" & 1" diameter	1/6
17.	Double Bracket, 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2"	2d.	51.	8 Holed Wheel Disc, 1 3/8" diameter	6d.
18.	Reversed Angle Bracket, 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2"	2d.	52.	8 Holed Bushed Wheel Disc, 1 3/8" diameter	9 1/2d.
19.	Angle Bracket 1" x 1"	2 1/2d.	55.	Semi-circular Plate, 2 1/2" diameter	6d.
20.	Double Angle Strip, 1 1/2" x 1/2"	2 1/2d.	56.	Right Angled Trunnion	3d.
21.	" " 2 1/2" x 1/2"	3d.	57.	Flat Trunnion	2 1/2d.
22.	Flexible Plate, 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"	3 1/2d.	58.	Curved Strip, 2 1/2" x 1 3/8" radius	3d.
23.	" " 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"	4 1/2d.	59.	Formed Strip, 3" x 1 1/2" radius	3d.
24.	" " 4 1/2" x 2 1/2"	6 1/2d.	60.	Flanged Plate, 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"	5d.
25.	" " 5 1/2" x 1 1/2"	5 1/2d.	61.	" " 5 1/2" x 2 1/2"	1/2
26.	" " 5 1/2" x 2 1/2"	8d.			

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