

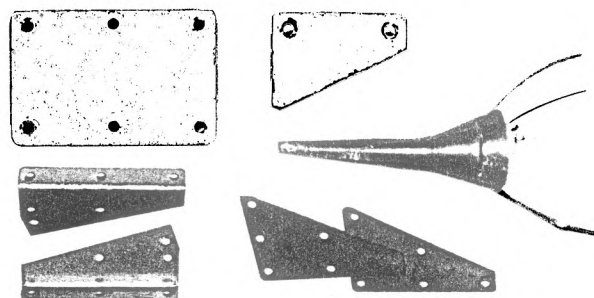
- Tube 4: DD black paint; AJET red paint.
- Tube 5: DD black paint; there does not seem to be an AJET equivalent.
- Fin 6 & 7, Flat Plate 8, Angled Plate 9: DD red paint; AJET Al paint.
- Nose 01: both nickel plated but AJET version has a half-hole at front so the probe can be bolted to the nose.
- Curved Plate 03: both nickel plated.
- Fin 08, 09, 10: DD red paint; AJET Al paint, with red/white/blue tail flashes on some 08 and 09.
- Flat Link: both probably nickel.
- Angled Link: no AJET version seen - may not be needed.
- Nuts and Bolts: seem to be the same for both systems with hex nut $\frac{5}{16}$ " A/F, and roundhead 4BA bolts of various lengths, all of brass plated steel.

The following parts are thought to be unique to AJET:

- Small rectangular plate (opposite): 2*3" with 6 holes; Al paint; cf No.8, 2½*3½", 9 holes.
- Flanged wing root, handed (opposite): 3½" long; Al paint.
- Large triangular plate: 2½*3½" (2 opposite overlapping);

Al paint; some may have roundel marking.

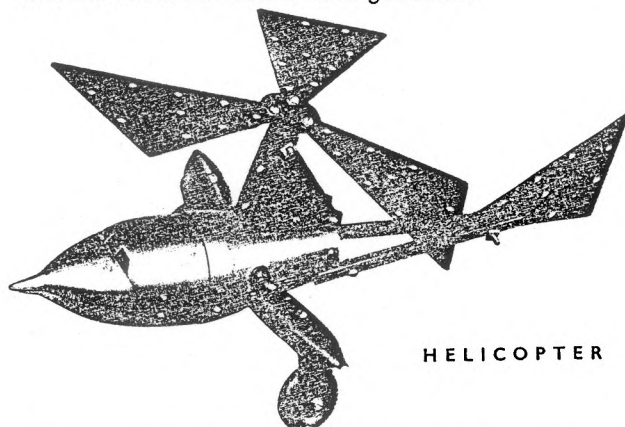
- Small triangular plate: 2*1½" (below); 2 holes; Al paint.
- Hinged undercarriage assembly: may be in large and small sizes - only the hinge of small version has been seen so far, one arm measures $\frac{3}{4}$ * $\frac{5}{8}$ ".
- Nose probe (below): moulded orange plastic; in two parts, the probe proper is tapped and is held by a bolt to the small nose, or to the large nose with a base unit between.
- Wheel: about 1½" diameter; balloon type moulded in black plastic.



And some Notes on SUPERSONIC This is another system with parts comparable to those of DAN DARE. It was originally listed in MCS as a DD outfit but was separated in PART 5 in the light of later information. No set is known but thanks to Geoff Osborn, a photocopy of the manual is to hand, and I've been able to examine some parts, courtesy of Ed Furness.

The manual measures about 200*145mm and has 8 pages plus covers. On the front is the full name of the set, THE SUPERSONIC JET-CRAFT & SPACE ROCKET BUILDER, and it was 'A MOKO Product, Made in England by Konstrukta Mfg. Co.' No address is given but MCS also contains a simple system with MECCANO-style parts called KONSTRUKTA, made by a company with the same name, of 14 Vesey Street, Birmingham.

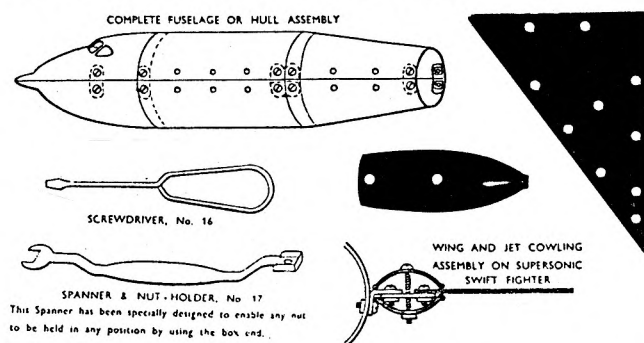
Also on the cover is 'Patent and registered design applied for'. Inside are 8 models, mostly jet planes but also a Jet-Car, a Jet Speed-Boat, and a rather futuristic looking Helicopter (below). The fuselage parts are much the same size as the DD Spaceship ones and the main differences are the shape of the nose, and the tapering sections that are used for the rear fuselage - the sketch opposite, taken from the inside back cover of the Manual, shows these parts. Half-Tubes were used instead of the DD Tubes and this type of part was mentioned in the DD Patent but not included in the sets. A useful part was the Half Jet Cowling, pairs of which can be seen on the sides of the Helicopter supporting the undercarriage. The latter was retractable, as in the AJET, with the Wheels mounted on hinged arms.



HELICOPTER

The parts are shown quite clearly in MCS and so only the colours and other points of interest will be noted.

- The Upper Half Nose has 3 pierced windows, one looking forward and two shorter, angled ones. It, like the Main Fuselage section, is about 4½" long: the Tail End is 3½". All the body parts are painted silver.
- The Large Wing (below) is bright red and some of its holes don't show in MCS. The Small Wing is light green.
- The Jet Cowling (below) is 3.1" long and is painted a darkish blue; the Undercarriage is light green with light blue Wheels, 1½" dia; the Half Tubes are black, about 6" long by .42" wide, with the 3 holes at 2" pitch.
- The Brackets, Axle, Spring Clip and 4-hole Bushed Wheel haven't been seen, but the colours of the parts have been written in on the Manual, with the Bushed Wheel red. The square Nut and roundheaded Bolts shown in MCS haven't been seen either, nor have the Screwdriver and the unusual Spanner (below). The Screwdriver looks very similar to one shown in a photo of an unused DD set from Martin Hills.
- All the main parts are made of .024" steel. Most of the holes are at 1" pitch with a diameter of about 4.2mm, but those in the Nose and Cowling sections are 4.5mm.



No indication of the date of SUPERSONIC is known, but the lines of several of the models in the Manual remind one of aircraft from the late 1950s.

MAAKEETS The date for this South African system is given in MCS as '? to 1970s'; in the Meccanoman's Guide issued in 1969 it says it was withdrawn in 1960 but reappeared in 1965. In 1973 Phil Ashworth visited S. Africa and afterwards wrote in the Midlands Meccano Guild N/L that he had seen it on sale and noted 'the atrocious finish on the parts and their flimsiness'. Although some unusual parts are shown in MCS, the sets that Phil saw were 'very similar to MECCANO, both in respect of number and type of parts in a given size of set, and flat box packaging with expanded polystyrene and transparent cover'.

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 0A & 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).

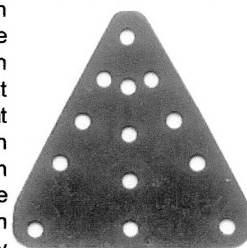
The Model Leaflet is in the MECHANIC style and has the OSN 25 maker & copyright date, but the name on the front is MEKANIK LÅDA (Låda means building set), with 'BYGG-ÖCH KONSTRUKTIONSSYSTEM' between the 2 words. The top half is shown below, and also has NO.06-312 on it. The only other text, the names 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.



MAAKEETS This was an 88-part South African system which appeared in the late '50s at a time when MECCANO was in short supply. Most of the parts were similar to MECCANO but some were original, some very like German MEKANIK, & there were a few specialised crane parts. It lasted for some 20 years with a gap of 5 years soon after its launch, but there were quality issues and its sales have been mainly local.

These notes are based on a No.3 set to hand recently (thanks to Jim Gamble); a manual probably intended for schools; photos courtesy Gary Higgins; a lead from him to an article by Pieter Gouws; and various snippets found in a web search. The No.3 is unused and has a manual but most of the small parts are missing.

The name MAAKEETS comes from the Afrikaans words maak & iets, meaning 'make something'. Most of the text is in English & Afrikaans but not quite all: for example the slogan of the No.3's manual (Fig.1) & box lid is only in English, likewise all the model names in it except that one is only in Afrikaans.

HISTORY. All that is known for sure of the 1950s sets is (a) a No.3 with a blue paper-covered lid and a label similar to the manual cover in Fig.1 except that the maker's name under MAAKEETS is 'A DIVISION OF E.A.SAYLE & SON (PTY.) LTD, Johannesburg, South Africa', and (b) a red lid with the same label but with the set number 28s in the top right corner. It is said that this set was for use in schools and a manual described later has models for Sets 28s to 33s.

MAAKEETS disappeared for around 5 years from about 1960. My No.3 set has prices in cents and so would be after February 1961. Sets 0-6 are listed in its manual, and the full range of parts except for the blue Pierced Plate in the top right corner of Fig.7. The Set's lid is dark blue and the lid label is almost the same as the manual cover in Fig.1. Both have, under MAAKEETS, 'A DIVISION OF VISTA TOYS (PTY.) LTD., P.O. BOX 5151, BOKSBURG NORTH' (a town 20km east of Johannesburg) on them. '76 Cason Rd.' is added to the address elsewhere in the manual. 'MANUFACTURED BY: VISTA TOYS (PTY.) LTD. P.O. BOX 5151, BOKSBURG NORTH' is printed on a small label under the Flanged Plate in the box, pasted to the backing board. On the side of the Set's blue small parts box is P.O. BOX 2700 JOHANNESBURG PHONE 22-0328, an address not seen elsewhere.

The label on the cannister right looks similar to the box label but it isn't known when it was marketed. The parts in it point to it being a No.0 outfit.

The cover of the 'schools' manual is as Fig.1 (except that its slogan is in both languages) but on the back page it has 'A PRESTIGE PRODUCT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA | MANUFACTURED BY VISTA TOYS (PTY.) LTD, P.O. BOX 5151, BOKSBURG NORTH'. The Republic was declared in May 1961.

A web search produced the lid right with the form of name used in the 1970s, and as a logo it has '[Pty] Ltd, 14 CASON ROAD, BOKSBURG NORTH, TRANSVAAL' under it. The image is too



Fig.1 are thought to have

with expanded polystyrene and transparent cover.' It's likely that some of the parts at this time had a BZP finish, witness the Universal Trunnions mentioned in 26/769, now definitely MAAKEETS parts.

In 1973 a Meccanoman wrote that the firm no longer replies to enquires. The date manufacture ceased isn't known but Vista as a company still existed in 1978.

THE PARTS. Most can be seen in Gary's photo (Fig.7). Fig.6 has all the parts listed in the manual, the coloured blobs mean the part is not in Fig.7, and the green ones that it is in one of the other illustrations, as mentioned below. The notes on the parts which follow are based on the No.3 set (Fig.8, the 5*3h Flanged Plate, one DAS, & parts in the small box are missing), Gary's photo, & manual illustrations. Also Meccano-style names are given where the original is unusual.

First some generalities. **Holes** are 4.2mm at 12.7mm pitch. **Rod parts** are 4.0mm Ø. **The thread** is 5/32" BSW. **Bosses** are brass, 9.5mm o.d., 4.1mm bore, double-tapped, 11½mm long, with deeply recessed peening. **Parts #44-46,48-54** look to have been inspired by MEKANIK.

#1-7. Strips. 12.9mm wide; 1mm thick. **#8.** Curved Strip. Spans 5h; 4 to a circle of 2.85" pcd. **#20.** A/B. See Fig.14. Probably made from the Flat Bracket. **#26.** 2h high D/B. **#33,34.** Simple Bell Cranks, 3*3; 2*2h (left). **#37-39.** Corrugated parts. Silver painted. The 'door' is just an opening

Fig.4 (Fig.11). **#44.** 5h Ø Flanged Disc Pulley.

#47. Gear Box Side Plate. Right, a different design in one of the manual models. **#48.** Universal Gears. Plastic with 12, 24t (but

12, 27 shown in the Manual, as in MEKANIK). **#55.** Threaded Boss (probably). **#56.** Spacer. Not seen. **#64-74.** Dull silvery plated rod parts. Axles have roughly sheared ends with burr on some. The Crank Handle is 14¼cm o/a with a 9½cm shank and a 2½cm offset handle. The Screwdriver (Fig.8), is similar to the MECCANO part but with 11½cm o/a with a more circular handle. **#59.** The yellow Pulley in Fig.7 may be plastic. **#61.** ½" Pulley. See Fig.9. **#76-79.** Flex. Plates (#79: Fig.8). .35mm thick. **#81.** Wire Hook. Fig.4 has two bolted down. **#82,83.** Tyres. 53½, 37mm o.d. when fitted. Plastic with circular tread & MAAKEETS on both sidewalls. **#84.** String (Fig.8). **#85.** Bolt. Various heads. **#86.** ¾" Bolt. Not seen. **#87.** Nut. Hexagonal, about 6.3mm A/F. **No PN.** The blue Pierced Plate top right in Fig.7.

Finish/Quality. The Meccanoman wrote of flimsy parts with an atrocious finish, and Pieter Gouws, who has seen a large number of parts, spoke of metal varying from flimsy to impossibly thick, 80° bend angle in the A/Gs, poor paint finish, and holes of different sizes at varying spacing. So parts to be used in pairs had to be carefully matched. The paint finish of the parts in the No.3 is, if not first class, very good, and still has a medium gloss. And the quality of the parts is on the whole good too. The defects I noted are the bend angles of the Rev. A/Bs; dished discs, only .35mm thick, in the Bush Wheel & Wheel Disc; and the holes in the 2 discs of one of the 1½" Pulleys are not quite in line (and even when in line their holes are barely large enough to take a Bolt). Also the splits in the Tyres, from age no doubt. Clearly I was very lucky.

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Fig.2

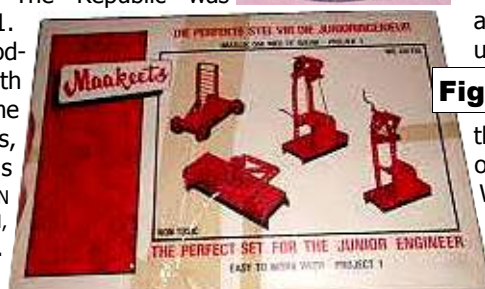


Fig.3

No.	DESCRIPTION	Set No.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Price Cents
1.	Perforated Strip 12 1/2"							5	6	.08
2.	" " 9 1/2"					2	2			.07 1/2
3.	" " 5 1/2"		2	4	4	6	8	12	12	.06
4.	" " 3 1/2"						2	2	4	.05
5.	" " 3"									.04
6.	" " 2 1/2"		2	4	6	8	10	12	10	.03
7.	" " 1 1/2"							4	6	.04
8.	Segment Strip 12 1/2"		2	2	4	4		4	4	.07
9.	Angle Girders 12 1/2"							2	2	.13
10.	" " 9 1/2"									.10
11.	" " 5 1/2"						2	4	4	.07 1/2
12.	" " 2 1/2"							2	2	.04
13.	Flat Girders 12 1/2"							2	2	.13
14.	" " 9 1/2"							2	2	.10
15.	" " 5 1/2"						2	1	1	.07 1/2
16.	" " 3 1/2"									.06
17.	" " 2 1/2"							2	2	.05
18.	Trunnion	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	.04
19.	Flat Trunnion			2	2	2	2	2	2	.03
20.	Angle Brackets 2 holes	3	6	6	6	6	8	12	12	.02
21.	Flat Brackets 2 holes	2	4	4	5	5	8	12	12	.02
22.	Double Brackets 3 holes	2					2	2	4	.03
23.	Double Angle Strip 3 1/2" x 1 1/2"							1	1	.05
24.	" " 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"	2	2	2	2	2	6	6	6	.04
25.	" " 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"						1	1	1	.03
26.	Bent Strip 5 holes							1	2	.07 1/2
27.	Double Bent Strip 7 holes							1	2	.05
28.	" " 5 holes							1	2	.04
29.	Reversed Angle Bracket 3 holes	1	1	2	2	4		2	4	.04
30.	Angle Bracket 4 holes							2	2	.03
31.	Sliding Strip 3 1/2"						2	2	2	.06
32.	" " 2 1/2"									.05
33.	Angle Strip 3 holes							2	2	.05
34.	" " 5 holes							2	2	.06
35.	Univ. Construction Trunnion	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	.04
36.	Special Crane Arms							2	2	.13
37.	Corrugated Sheet with Door	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	.09
38.	" " Window							1	1	.09
39.	" " Plain						2	2	2	.09
40.	Flange Plate 5 1/2" x 2 1/2"	1	1	1	1	2		2	2	.17
41.	" " 3 1/2" x 2 1/2"							1	1	.12
42.	" " 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"						1	1	1	.08
43.	Sector Plate						2	2	2	.13
44.	Round Plate with Boss									.16
45.	Face Plate 4 1/2"						1	2	2	.13

Fig.6

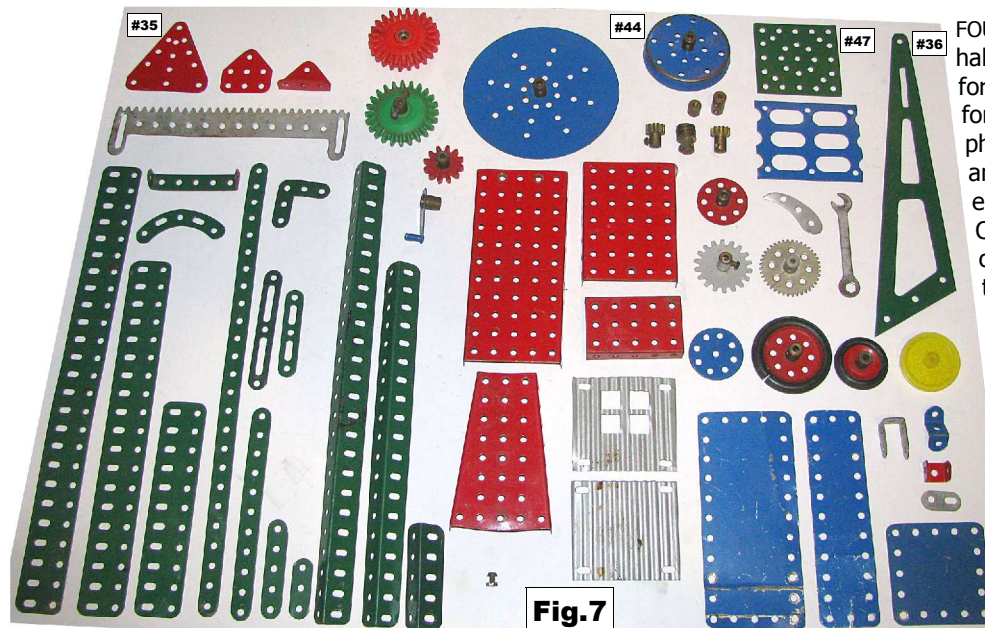
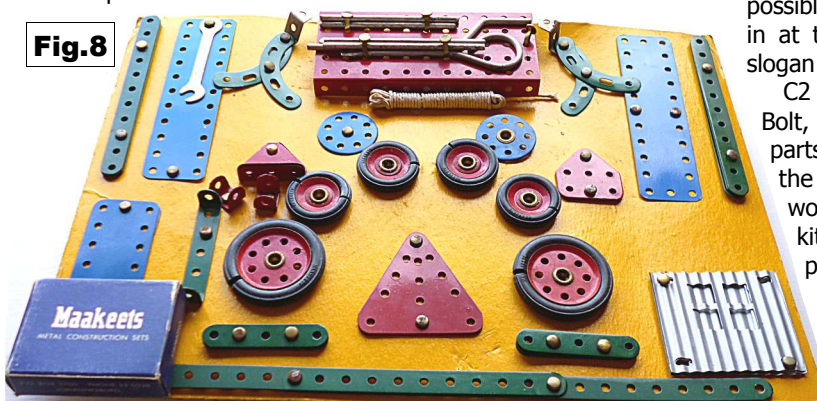


Fig.7

THE No.3 SET. The box is dark blue, 40 1/2" x 29 1/4" x 2 3/4". The label, 35 1/2" x 23cm, is as Fig.1 but deeper to show more of the top of the bridge, and along the bottom is the printer, ARTONE (LITHO) JHB. It has a circular '3' label stuck on top right. The parts on their card are shown below. The contents look

Fig.8



unused and are as the inventory except that a DAS, plus the N&B, and other small parts in the small box, including the 2h Brackets, are missing. Also the 3*5h Flanged Plate – there is a suitable space for it on the righthand side but no evidence of a part ever having been there. It is perhaps no coincidence that there were 3 instead of 2 of the 3*5h Flexible Plates.

THE No.3 MANUAL. It is 269* 140mm with 20 pages plus C1 (Fig.1) to C4. C2 has a Preface from 'Your Parents' to their Son which includes mention of Uncle Gerald's Maakeets Club, with promise of competitions & handsome prizes. Said parents also hope that they will be allowed to play with the set after son has gone to bed, and if so promise to look after it and put all the parts back again. Sickening.

p1 has the Set Contents of Sets 0-6; pp2-3 the Illustrated Parts. pp4-5 show the use of the Universal Gears, and 3 models which need Set 6 & demonstrate the use the various toothed parts. One model is a simple Mechanical Feed using the Rack Strip & 18t Gear.

pp6-20 show 4,4,4,4,3,2,3 models for Sets 0-6, from HIGH FLIER to LOUIS FOURIE KRAAN (Fig.11). There is a clear halftone for each model, except 2 less clear for the Kraan. All the models, apart from 2 for the No.6, could easily be built from the photos. All the models are original designs and given the limited number of models for each set, they are a fair selection with Cranes aplenty, though no aeroplane or car. I thought the small models & some of the largest ones quite reasonable but those of the mid-range sets less so. Mechanical features are confined to Cord & Gear drives, with no luffing in the Cranes or steering for vehicles.

The models overleaf are a mix of, to me, good and not so good ones. Notice the extra holes in the side of the "MAAKEETS" CRANE's cab (Fig.13).

C3 says goodbye, followed by the company name & address, and the printer: Artone Press (Pty.) Ltd., P.O. Box 6453, Johannesburg. C4 has a

photo of the 2 layers of parts in Set 6. It includes the Pierced Plate which isn't otherwise shown or mentioned.

THE 'SCHOOL' MANUAL. It has 12 unnumbered pages 245*120mm plus covers, but the latter are loose and it's just possible that there may have been an extra page or two stuck in at the back. The front is as the No.3 above except the slogan along the bottom is also in Afrikaans.

C2 has a list of the parts: as in the No.3 but with no 3/8" Bolt, or Screwbox, and no set contents. Under it is 'All these parts are available separately and in conversion kits'. This is the only mention of actual conversion sets (the No.3 wording is '... available as Spare Parts or for Conversion of kits'). However no conversion sets have been reported. pp1-2 have the Illustrated Parts.

pp3-11 have 8,4,3,3,4,3 models for Sets 28-S to 33-S. The models are all in the No.3 with the same presentation except that the Afrikaans model names are present. Not quite all the models are in set order, for

example all three 33-S models (the Gear models on pp4-5 of the No.3 manual) are on p10. From the models it seems that Set 28-S corresponded to Sets 0+1; and 29-S, 30-S, 31-S, to 2, 3, 4. 32-S & 33-S are more difficult because if the set numbering in the manual is correct all the Set 5+6 models, other than the 'Gear' models, could be made with the 32-S, and the only models for the 33-S are the 3 'Gear' models.

p12 has the English/Afrikaans equivalents of 136 Automobile Terms, & C3-4 have 186 for General Engineering. Also on C4, company details & the printer: PALLADIUM STATIONERS.

REMARKS As is not uncommon with OS manuals one feels that some of the MAAKEETS models don't do justice to the contents of the sets, and with this in mind I decided to try to make a Crane from my No.3 similar to the No.5 MAAKEETS model in Fig.13. Substitutes were used for most of the missing parts in my set. Fig.12 shows the result. The tower is

perhaps a little unimpressive but against that the jib can luff with the Bush Wheel holes engaging a Bolt shank to lock it, and a friction brake controls the load. Some extra parts were needed: 4 A/Bs (none if I'd had a suitable 5*3h Flanged Plate), & 13 N&B (but only 9 with the Flanged Plate, & of those 3 for the brake, 1 to bolt ballast under the back of the cab (the 3 Plates in OSN 26), & 5 for the 'name sign' over the front of the cab (I was trying to use all the parts in the Set)). And I used 2 shorter substitute Axles rather than the ones in the Set.

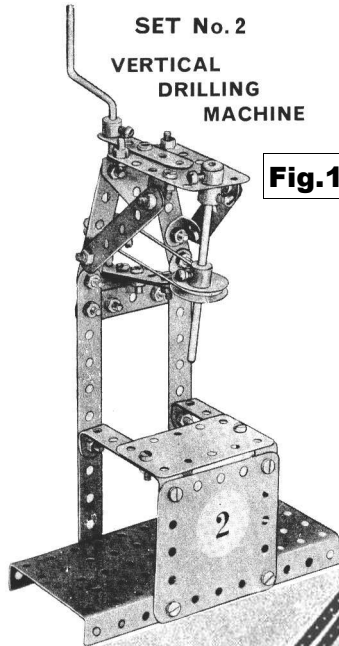


Fig.10

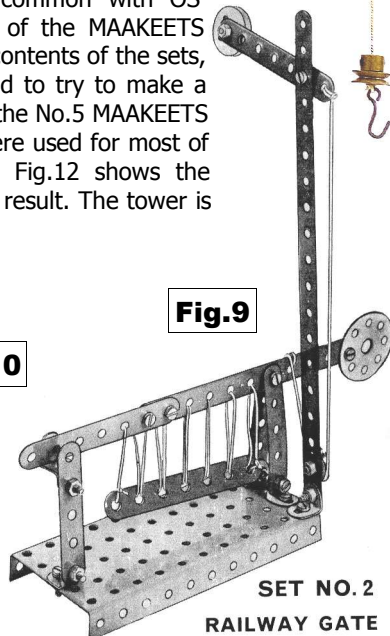


Fig.9

Maakeets

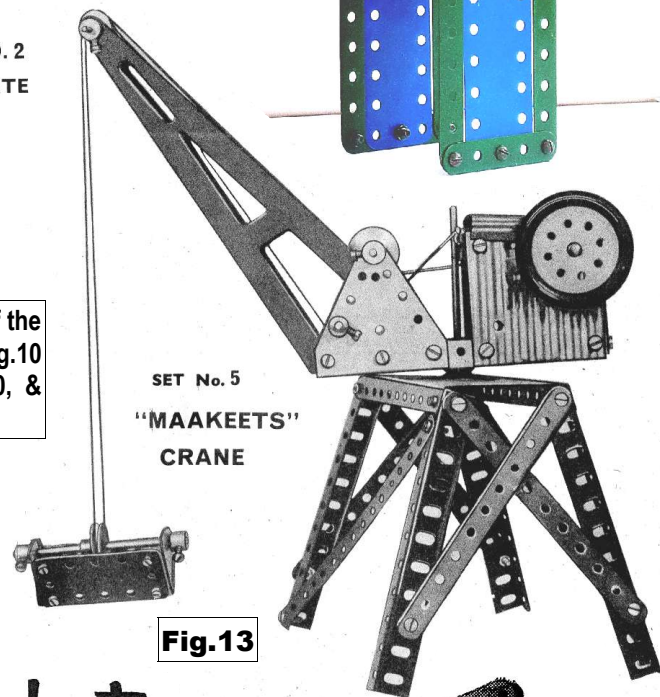


Fig.13

Maakeets

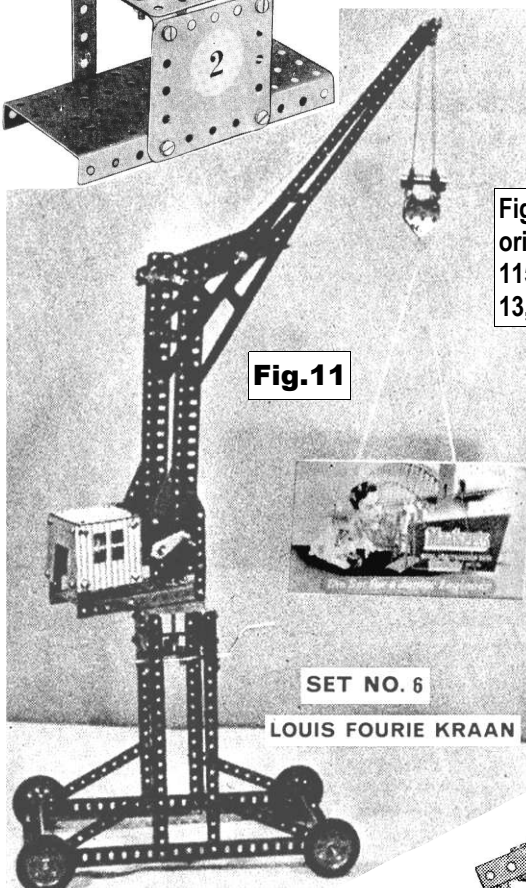


Fig.11

Fig.14 is 100% of the original size; Fig.10 115%; Figs.9, 10, & 13, 70%.

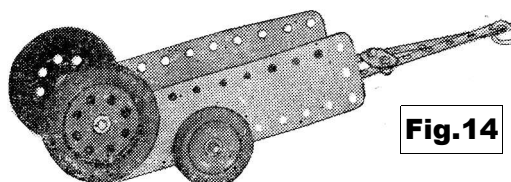
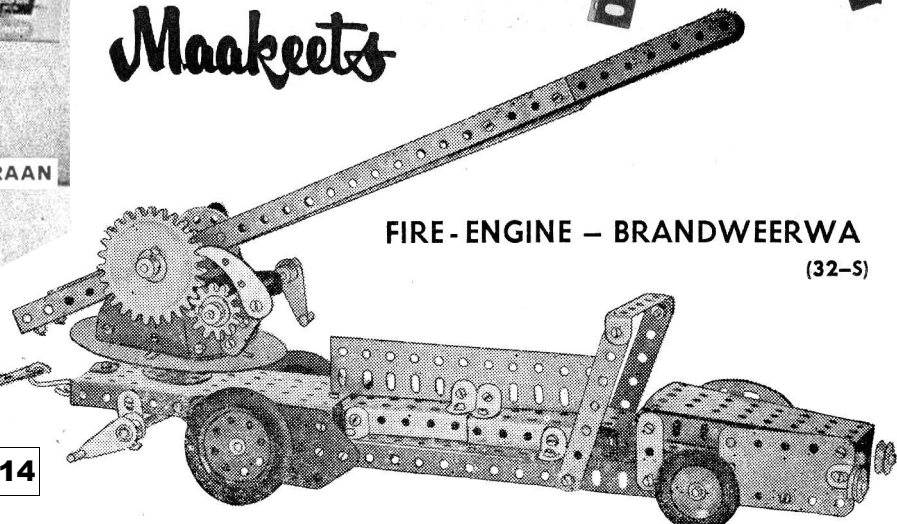


Fig.14

FIRE-ENGINE – BRANDWEERWA
(32-S)



Snippet. Another UFSA Set A No.1A set was described in 41/1249 and now a No.1 offered on Ebay adds something to the story.

On p1 of the manual it is said that the system has 38 parts and 6 sets. The set structure is shown as below though there

N. 0 - N. 1 formanti la scatola N. 1a
N. 2 - N. 2a formanti la scatola N. 3 } formanti la scatola N. 3a

appear to be 7 sets. Perhaps there were models for N.3a but not an actual set.

There is nothing to identify the maker but the printer on the manual's back cover is Arti Grafiche INVERNIZIO Tortona Tel. 3-28. Tortona could be a town between Milan & Genoa, or a district of Milan. Perhaps the phone number would identify it.

In the Ebay ad it was said that the phone number indicates the 1930s or 40s.

The set's box, right, measures 23¼*18½*2½ and the label is similar to the No.1A's. The parts are shown in Fig.2 with the open N&B tin below it. The parts that can be seen and were not in the No.1A are the wire Hook, the Cord wrapped around it, the 2 & 10h Strips, the 2 lengths of Screwed Rod which scale at 10½ & 4½cm long (they were in the 1A but not noted before), and the N&B (that look plain steel).

Points of interest. The 4h disc is a Pulley Disc, not a Pulley. The tool is definitely a Spandriver. Top right in Fig.W are 8x 14h A/Gs, a part noted as probable in OSN 41.

So 24 different parts in all in the 2 sets, so some way to go to reach the 38 claimed.

The manual is bound in the same style as the OSN 41 and has the same cover except that it is a deep pink colour (like

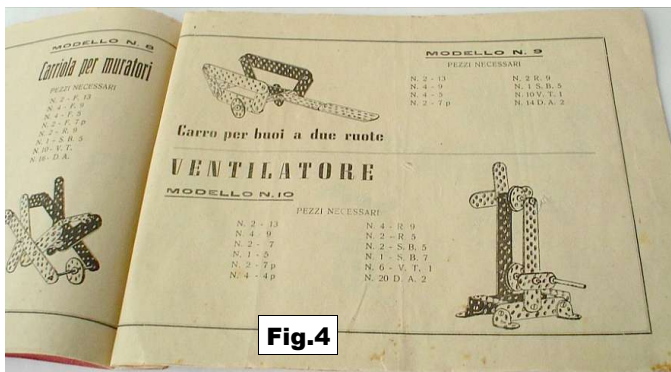


Fig.4

OSN 52/1611



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

the sleeve of the N&B tin above), and it is marked n.1 rather than N.1A. The page in Fig.4 was shown on Ebay.

UFSA: S3

More MAAKEETS Two 'School' sets have come along since the notes on a No.3 outfit in 51/1567. One is a No.30s, unused but the parts have been unstrung, the other a 31s still strung. Both have a manual identical to the School edition in 51/1568 (with no 'extra' pages), and both are in red boxes with the small parts in a blue box as in the No.3. The main parts are strung with red cord into the recesses of a white, formed plastic tray, with a recess for virtually every type of part. As expected the sets are very similar to Nos.3 & 4 of the standard range except that each has 2 Screwdrivers & 2 Spanners extra.

No doubt sets with this type of plastic tray packaging would have been later than those like the No.3 with its parts strung onto a card, and the No.30s tray would have been perfectly suitable for the No.3.

The 30s box is the same size as the No.3, and with the same label except for a small, '30s' label, in the top right corner, and a bilingual 'FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY' label top left.

Compared to the Set 3 inventory in OSN 51 the parts in the 30s, as found, are the same except as follows: **PLUS:** 2 Spanners; 2 Screwdrivers; 1 Handle Crank #46; 2 Bolts (but there are none in the bosses etc.); 9 Nuts; 1x 2" Axle; **MINUS:** 1x 3½" Axle; 1x 5*3h Flanged Plate; 2 Flat Brackets; 1 Hank of String (probably as in the No.3 & 31s).

The 31s box, 17¼*12¼*1", has the same design of label as the 30s but smaller, 10¾*5¾". The 3*5h Flanged Plate, with flanges along its long sides and round holes in them, is

packed under the 5*11h Flanged Plate, together with the Hank of String, identical to the one in the No.3.

Compared to the No.4 inventory in OSN 51 the 31s parts, as found, are the same except as follows: **PLUS:** 2 Spanners; 2 Screwdrivers; 2 Collars; 12 Nuts; 4x ¼" Bolts (again none in the bosses, etc.); **MINUS:** 6x ¾" Bolts; 1x ½" Pulley.

Parts not seen before, and points of interest. Most can be seen in OSN 51. **#11,15.** 5½" Angle, Flat Girder. 7½mm slotted holes. **#11** is 14*17½mm; **#15** 30½mm wide (the MECCANO #103 is 27¼mm). All dimensions approximate. **#20, 21.** Flat & Angle Brackets, plated a dull silver colour. **#25.** 1*3*1h DAS. **#31.** Slotted Strip, 3½". **#29** Rev. A/B, red (it was dull silver in the No.3). **#43.** Flanged Sector Plate. 6¼mm slotted holes in flanges. **#45.** 4½" Face Plate with boss. **#46.** Handle Crank with a tapered web & the pin offset about 1¼". **#48.** Universal Gears. Light red plastic, 29½ & 53¾mm o.d. with 12 & 24 teeth. **#61.** Loose Pulley, brass, 12.7mm o.d. **#81** Hook, 2mm wire, 26½mm long o/a. **#85,87.** N&B, brassed steel. **#85.** ¼" Bolt, 6½mm Ø cheesehead with pronounced taper. **#87.** Nut, pressed, 6.2mm A/F, 2¼mm thick.

Quality. The parts with glossy paintwork and no splits in the Tyres, look very well in the new packaging. The only obvious quality issues are that the bend angle of the A/Gs is noticeably more than 90°, and the holes in about half of the 2h Brackets are in-line but offset sideways by up to 2mm.

OSN 52/1611 (the last page of OSN 52)

MAAKEETS: S4