

New System: METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET Unused examples of this set, apparently Dutch, were being sold on Ebay last autumn. The only company name is on the EC label, Evora B.V., Renswoude NL, but of course this firm might only be an agent. Bottom left on the underside of the box below is a small 'Tup' logo. There is nothing to indicate where the



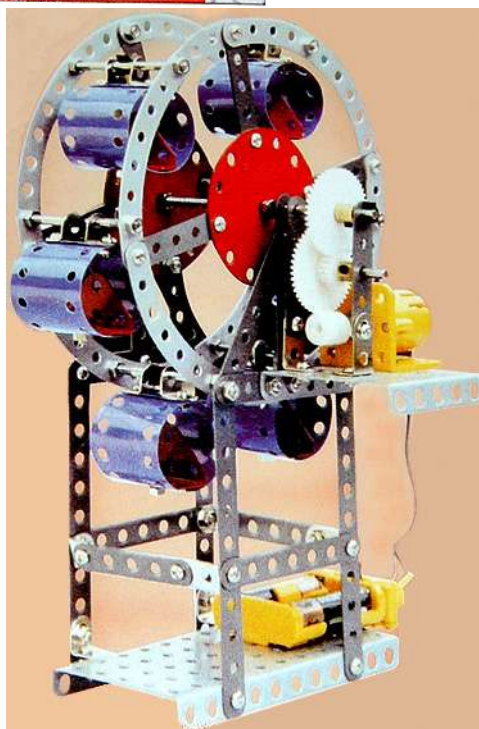
parts were made but they are not the usual, for these days, 'Chinese' copies of CONSTRUCTION. And although at a glance the Strips are like MECCANO, the hole pitch is 12.3mm, and none of the other parts are exactly MECCANO pattern.

The end-opening box measures 28½*42*5¾cm and right is an enlargement of the main model on the underside of the box (less some of its background). The small blue panel in the bottom right corner shows the parts & their quantities. Nearly all the text is in Dutch, and apart from 'SET', & 'MECHANIC' on the ends in small letters before the METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET name, the non-Dutch wording is in French under the name 'Jeux de construction metallique' on one of the long sides. The top of the box has the name along the bottom and the Big Wheel in the bottom left corner, with the rest cut away to show the parts through a formed, lidded clear plastic inner box, against the red inside bottom of the outer box. The inner box has recesses for the different parts, with the N&B, Axles, & small parts in clear plastic bags.

The PARTS Most of the 45 different parts are shown right. All are listed below, with notes as necessary, & quantities in curly brackets (where different, those actually found follow a slash).

- **Generalities.** The metal parts are .75-.95mm thick, with most about .85mm. Ends/corners are all fully radiused. Slotted holes are 6½mm long. Strips/Brackets are 12.2mm wide with a few down to 12.0mm. Except where noted metal Strip Parts & Plates are painted silver-grey & Brackets are nickel plated.

- **Strips** 3,5,7,11h long with the 3h



are 3*5, 3*7, & 3*11h {8,6,6}, and the 3*5h has no centre hole. They are .5mm thick and the 11h can just be bent into a circle without kinking. The **Triangular Plate** {4} is .6mm thick.

Leading Particulars

Name METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET. Also on the box: **Jeux de construction metallique, & MECHANIC.**

Country Perhaps Holland.

Maker or agent: Evora B.V., Renswoude NL.

History New sets sold on Ebay in 2003.

Hole dia. 4.4mm.

Hole pitch 12.3mm.

Sets Only one known.

Material/Finish Fairly soft steel painted silver-grey or red, but small parts nickeled. Blue Plastic Flexible Plates.

Bosses 8.8mm o.d., 4.2mm bore, 8.8-9.0mm long, s/t M4. Brass on Gears, nickeled steel on Bush Wheel.

Fixing Nickeled steel M4 N&B. Hex Nuts are machined, 7.9mm A/F, & 3.0mm deep. Crosshead Bolts with 6.7Ø RH, 6mm u/h (the 10mm u/h are 6.3mm Ø).

Axles 4.00±.02mm Ø, nickled steel, with sheared ends.

DP Mod .8 (32 DP).

Motor One 3v d.c.

Remarks Parts generally accurately made and well finished.

- **Circular Parts** The **Bush Wheel & Wheel Disc** are 35mm Ø {1,1}. The centre hole of the latter is 6½mm. The **Circular Plate** {2} is 70mm Ø & has 15 (!) equispaced edge holes at a radius of 29½mm. The red plastic **Loose Pulley** {1} is 18mm o.d., 6mm wide, and the 14mm Ø bottom of the vee is flat. Both its sides are recessed.
- **Gears** All are plastic moulded onto a brass bush with boss. The 16t **Pinion** {1} is 14.3mm o.d. with a 5mm wide face, and it meshes well at 2h spacing with the 46t, 38.1mm o.d./2.5mm face **Gear** {2} – its disc has an 11¼mm Ø, 2½mm deep boss on the outer face to give extra support to the brass bush. The **Worm** {1} is 14.0mm o.d. & 12.7mm long (about 5 turns), excluding the boss.
- **Axles** are 49 & 69mm long {1,1}. The **Rods with Screwed Ends** are 130/91mm long with 74/25mm of thread at one end, and 60mm long with 10mm of thread at each end {1,1,6}. The smooth parts of all three are 3.4mm Ø.
- **Fixings Nuts** {120} for the 6 & 10mm **Bolts** {110,10}. The single turn **Spring Washer** {120!}, 6.5mm o.d., is chemically blackened. The black plastic **Spring Clip** {10} is 5mm wide, 7mm deep o/a, with 2½mm wings, and grips well on the Axles. The black **Grub Screw** {10} is 4mm long with a flat end and a

normal screwdriver slot.

- **Tools** The nickel **Spanner** {1} is 78mm long o/a. The **Screwdriver** {1}, 93mm long o/a, has a 44mm 4-fluted handle and normal blade tip.
- **Misc.** The white plastic **Axle Stop** (above the Spring Washer in the photo of the parts) {1} is 8mm Ø & 8mm long, and is a push-fit on the Axle. The plastic jelly mould shaped **Cone** is 47mm Ø & 15mm deep {3 blue, 3 white}.
- The **Motor & Battery Box** (2x AA batteries, with reversing switch) are similar to MECCANO/STEEL TEC items, but unlike the other parts, neither is well made. The boss on the end of the motor is loose in the 1mm too large hole in the front face of the casing, and the switch on Battery Box is inoperative in one of its 2 'ON' positions.

The MODELS There was no manual with the set to hand and no mention is made of one on the box. So perhaps the 7 models on the underside of the box are all the guidance provided, but on the other hand, apart from the Big Wheel, it is difficult to see much detail in most of the others, even using a magnifying glass. These 'small' models comprise a Swing and various types of Roundabout & Chair-O-Planes.

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METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET: S2

Snippet - New System: MECHANIC This may well be the same as, or very similar to, METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET. Examples, apparently new and unused, of a set bearing the name were sold on Ebay from July to December 2003 by someone in Australia. The description read 'Mechanic Metal Construction Set. 544 Pieces with wind up motor included. Ages 7+', and the only illustration was the lid right. The words under the model can't be deciphered but those under 'METAL CONSTRUCTION SET' are 'Only one model can be made at a time', and under the '7+' at the bottom is '2003'.

The 544 parts is the same number as in the METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET outfit above and it will be remembered that the word 'MECHANIC' was on its box. Another similarity is the apparently identical model on the lids. Both are driven from the same yellow Electric Motor despite the C/W Motor claimed for MECHANIC. The final similarity is the model on the yellow star on the MECHANIC lid – it is identical to one on the under-



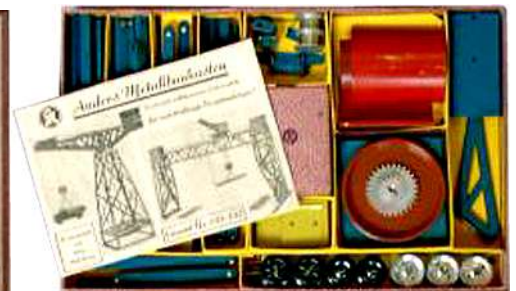
side of the METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET box.

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MECHANIC [2]: S1

An ANDERS Gigant Set Since the notes on p932 were written the **Gigant Nr.132** shown right has been seen on Ebay, a larger outfit with more ambitious models than any of the Gnom sets.

Assuming the Wheels and Pulleys along the bottom are the same size as the Gnom parts, the box scales at some 42*27cm, and the Jib Frame, far right, would be the same size as before. Also the compartment on the far left would be the right length to take the A/Gs in the 112 set. Other parts which can be seen are 2



bright, flanged Winding Drums at top centre, and the bright Gear on top of the large red Disc or Pulley.

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ANDERS: S2

This is the last page of OSN 31.

Correction

In the diagram of the ASSEMBLO Plate in 30/877, the dimensions C & D should be interchanged. Thanks to Don Redmond for pointing this out.

All MECCANO & Compatible Parts

Thanks to Howard Somerville there is now a web site, www.hsomerville.com/IPL/, which has links to about 24 sources of these parts, and many of them give details of what is available or offer downloads of parts lists, etc.

Binding OSN Pages

Now the pages are double-sided there's a simple way of making them into the old B&W style, stapled N/L. Lay the appropriate sheets edge to edge & join each pair with a strip of 19mm Scotch tape. Then staple the resulting A3 sheets with a long-arm stapler, or make suitable holes with a pin and push staples through. Fold over.